

High Property Valuation and Low Tax Rate, or Vice Versa, Question

County Commissioners Consider Plans for Revaluing Property To Meet Fiscal Needs

By Bion H. Butler

The new board of commissioners of Moore county in session last week faced the most serious proposition before it and took the matter in hand in intelligent fashion. This is the question of revaluation of property in the county, which is a possibility of the new four-year assessment of real property that comes with 1931. Wilbur Currie had already gone over county affairs carefully, and he came to the meeting with much information on the subject, from which those who dropped in at the session have concluded that the new board is going to give an unusually good administration. The tenor of the discussion that arose covered the essential points of county administration, the financing and the expenditure of the county revenues, and the imperative requirements as well as those that are less grave in their character.

One thing that stood out in the examination of the situation is that the chief cost of county operation is not the current expenses but interest on bonded debt along with the sums necessary for the sinking fund to retire the debt from year to year. Bonds have been issued for different purposes, court house, school and road bonds being the particular burden on the county. It is these that take the big end of the money collected in taxes, and it is these bonds that say what the annual tax collection must be. Next after the imperative demand of the bonds and interest comes the school and the roads. We cannot cut down on interest and bond redemption, but the schools and the roads are more or less the sayso of the people. It was developed that the actual cost of government is small, and that any saving that can be made by reducing salaries of officials will signify but little in the total outlay of county money. The old story was in evidence, that while the people clamor to cut down taxation they likewise clamor for appropriations, and one thing that came out of the meeting last week was this fact—that if to pay taxes is unpleasant taxes may be lessened by asking fewer appropriations from the county funds. There is one thing that the commissioners have encountered for generations. The commissioners have just as much of a task in denying money from the county treasury for schemes of all sorts as they have in getting money to meet the innumerable demands.

From listening to the discussion of matters at the commissioners' office it is apparent that the bonded debt is riveted on the necks of the people of the county. There is a long job ahead in paying the debt and the interest, and it will cost more in interest than the face of the bonds, for the interest comes every year and stays until the bonds are redeemed. Road costs are to be what the people make them from now on. It is the same with the schools. If roads are to be built and maintained money must be forthcoming to pay the bills. If schools are to be carried on teachers must be paid, school busses must be paid if they are operated on the same broad basis, and with every thing else the county does, we must pay if we continue to carry on as we are.

That brought the board to face the second phase of the situation. If the county is going to be required to pay in the days ahead as we have been paying in the immediate past the whole proposition turns on the sum of money required for the work. We must have enough to meet the fixed bonded debt with interest, enough to run the courts and the county government, enough to maintain the roads, the schools, the county charities and public development work, and the other claims that we accept. Only one place can be found from which that money can come and that is the whole people. This being the year of the new assessment of property the question came up of lowering or readjusting values of property. That met with this plain fact. If values are lower a higher rate on the dollar will be necessary to provide the money needed. If the rate on the dollar is to be lowered a higher valuation will be required. If we require \$400,000 in taxes and determine to make the rate a dollar on the hundred of valuation we will require \$400,000 valuation in the assessment. But if we make the assessment \$200,000 we will require a valuation of two dollars on the hundred. It is as broad as it is long, and that is one thing the board discussed, and with getting anywhere, because there is but one place to start. That is the amount of money to be collected, and

Court House News

Real Estate Transfers

The following transfers of real estate have been recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Moore county:

John R. Neal and wife, Mamie M. Neal, and H. W. Ehrhardt, A. P. Thompson and I. C. Sledge, Trustees of Presbyterian Church, to Pinehurst Community Church, Inc.: land in Pinehurst.

Marriage licenses have been issued to the following during the past week:

Jesse James and Flossie Mae Mar-ess, both of Glendon; H. C. Lambert and Lydia Caviness of Bennett, and Cary L. McLeod of Vass Route 1 and Rozella McCallum of Carthage.

P. F. Buchan and Helen Buchan, his wife, and J. N. Powell and Georgia Powell, his wife, to Amelia McCarr: property in Sandhills township.

Nathan Foster and Ammie Foster, his wife, to Algie Ganes and Henrietta Ganes, his wife: property in Sandhills township.

Isham C. Sledge and Blanche McNeill Sledge, his wife, to Frank G. Taylor: property in Mineral Springs township.

Marriage Licenses

The following have obtained license to marry from the office of the Moore county Register of Deeds:

Milton Arthur Brooks of Roxbury, Mass. and Henrietta Fisher of New York; Charlie Green Cummings of Lakeview and Ollie Lelia McCrimmon of Vass; James Harrison Hartsell of Jackson Springs and Estelle Alice McDonald of Jackson Springs.

there is no place to stop because low valuation means high rate and low rate means high valuation.

So it all comes back to the beginning which is how much money the people are going to demand of the board for the coming year, and much of that answer will come from the action of legislation at Raleigh in the next two months. Considerable comment on the situation has been heard, but with the rest is the opinion that the new board is taking hold of the matter with much judgment and care. The limitations of their power is freely discussed, and the conclusion heard in different directions is that the board has on its hands a grave task inherited from the last twenty years or even more when the crude methods of the past are considered, but that the upheaval of the last few months has impressed everybody with the severity of the present crisis, and that the people are beginning to see the absolute necessity of economies all along the line. There are those who predict that the coming legislature will provide some laws that will clarify the air still more in county government following the legislation of the past few years which has enabled the retiring board of commissioners to bring the county to the excellent condition in which it is.

Taking the conversation that has been encountered regarding the meeting last week it is believed that the people are more ready to stand by the new commissioners and to really help put the county on the best business basis possible than ever in the county's history. The advantages of good government are gradually becoming apparent, for better laws have made better government possible, and the general tone about the coming year is one of hopefulness and a willingness to back the new administration patiently in its difficult job.

CARTHAGE

Misses Nellie and Nannie Hoyle entertained Friday evening at a dinner at their home. The home was decorated for the occasion with Yuletide colors. After dinner a table of bridge and rook were enjoyed. Mrs. F. H. Underwood won the bridge prize and Miss Mildred Sinclair the rook prize. The guest were Mesdames H. G. Poole, F. H. Underwood, J. P. Sinclair, J. V. Williamson, S. H. Shields, J. M. Lane, Misses Mildred Sinclair and Maida Jenkins.

On New Year's Day, S. R. Hoyle was the host to a number of friends at a twelve o'clock dinner at his home on Sanders street. The house was decorated with Christmas colors. The guests were U. L. Spence, Judge George H. Humber, H. Lee Thomas, H. F. Seawell, Jr., M. G. Boyette, John Willcox and Sheriff C. J. McDonald.

Miss Willa Campbell was hostess to her bridge club Thursday evening. After several progressions it was found that Mrs. L. R. Sugg held high score. Guest prize was given to Miss Elizabeth Willis, house guest

of Mrs. O. B. Welch. Those enjoying Miss Campbell's hospitality were Miss Mildred Campbell of Sanford, Miss Willis, Mesdames O. B. Welch, L. R. Sugg, D. N. Carter, and Misses Margaret McLeod, Annie McKeithen, Judith Wainer, Louise Williams, Johnnie Redding, Eliza Green and Mary Currie.

Personals

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Shaw and Miss Netta Poplin of Rockingham visited Mr. Shaw Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Miller of Aberdeen visited friends in Carthage Sunday.

Mrs. C. E. Osborn of Lexington and Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur McLean Osborn of Portsmouth, Va., visited Mrs. A. P. Shaw Friday.

Mrs. Gilliam Brown has returned home after a visit to friends in Charlotte.

Mrs. William Reed and Mrs. Harry Ward spent last Tuesday afternoon in Charlotte.

Mr. and Mrs. K. R. Hoyle and family of Sanford, were the Sunday dinner guest of Misses Nellie and Nannie Hoyle.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Cross and daughter, Alice have returned to Eastern, Pa., after visiting Mrs. Stead.

Mr. and Mrs. Commodore Muse have returned to High Point after spending the holidays with Mrs. Muse's mother, Mrs. R. G. Frye.

Miss Elizabeth Willis, who has been the attractive house guest of Mrs. O. B. Welch, has returned to Salem College.

Miss Mildred Campbell of Sanford spent part of the holidays in Carthage with her sister, Miss Willa Campbell.

Mrs. John Tyson of Vass is visiting her daughter, Mrs. L. C. Wallace.

The following have returned to school after spending the holidays at home: Miss Rozelle Williamson to Greensboro College, Ruth Lang to N. C. C. W.

Otis Baker, Union Spence to the University and Clement Barrett to Wake Forest.

Mr. and Mrs. U. L. Spence and daughter, Mary Worthy left Monday for Raleigh.

Mrs. C. M. Nicoll and R. J. Hart visited relatives in Aberdeen last week.

Dr. and Mrs. C. T. Grier of Shelter Island, New York are visiting Mr. and Mrs. George Graves.

Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Spencer and family returned Sunday from Apalachicola, Fla., where they spent the holidays.

Miss Nellie Graves returned to Chapel Hill Saturday after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Graves.

Miss Isabella Morton of Petersburg, Va., spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Morton.

CAMERON

Mrs. Ed Mann and son of Boonville spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Pierce.

Prof. J. Clyde Kelly and Mrs. Kelly and children of Harmony spent the week-end with his brother, Ever Kelly of Route 1. They were in town Friday and their many friends were wishing them a happy New Year.

Mrs. Royal Jones and Tom Jones of Fayetteville were guests Friday of C. C. Jones and daughters on Route 1. Tom Jones spent his boyhood in Cameron and he has a warm spot in the hearts of the people.

Mrs. Flora Buchanan of Louisburg is visiting Mrs. D. W. McNeill and her niece, Mrs. Ada McNeill.

Mrs. M. McL. McKeithen was on the sick list a few days last week.

J. C. Bruton, Sr., and J. C. Bruton, Jr., of Columbia, S. C., were weekend guests of Miss Mamie Arnold and Mrs. McD. McIver, the latter returned to Philadelphia where he holds the Chair of Law in the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Tally returned from Buffalo, N. Y., Saturday. They spent the holidays with their son, J. B. Tally.

Mrs. Julia McDougald, who has been visiting her son, Arch McDougald, of Hamlet, returned home Saturday.

Mrs. W. G. Parker has a slight case of influenza.

Little Pattie Ruth Lewis is much improved.

Mrs. Thad Omohundro and daughter, Annie, of Greensboro are visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Loving this week.

Mrs. O. F. Taylor and son, Ray, accompanied by Misses Elizabeth Ray and Margaret McLean returned to Winston-Salem Sunday.

Mrs. D. S. Ray spent Sunday in Asheboro with her son, Ervin L. Ray.

Rev. Mr. Herring, a retired missionary of Fuquay Springs, preached in the Baptist Church Sunday evening.

Misses Annie H. Jones and Ellen Royal Jones returned to Meredith Monday. Mary Hendrix and Bill Turnley to Mars Hill Monday.

J. T. Fox of Wake Forest was guest

of Miss Mary Hendrix this week.

Redin Barefoot of Burlington spent Christmas with his parents on Route 1.

Wayland Wilson of Boone Trail and Harvey Hawley of Campbell College were guests Saturday of Misses Lola and Ruby Thomason.

Typhus Rogers of Campbell College was guest of Miss Grace Womack last week-end.

The Woman's Club met New Year's day in the club room. In the absence of the president, Mrs. W. G. Parker, vice-president, presided. The program was in charge of the Literature and music department, Mrs. Stanley Graham, chairman. An interesting contest was held, and Miss Margaret Gilchrist was winner. She was presented with a charming prize in a witty speech by Miss Lillian Cole. The club wrote some splendid New Year resolutions, pertaining chiefly to the club-work for the year.

The following congenial party of "crack-shots" were duck shooting down on the coast near Morehead City last week: John Davenport, J. C. Pittman, Dr. Archie McKeithen of Louisville and Leighton McKeithen of Cameron. They bagged a quantity of duck, Leighton, McKeithen brought a dozen home with him.

The Rev. M. D. McNeill filled his regular appointment here Sunday a. m. at 11 o'clock.

Mrs. Loula Muse left Tuesday for Henderson, to visit her son, Dr. John D. Muse.

Mesdames Leighton McKeithen and Jewell Hemphill were dinner guests Wednesday of Mrs. Alfred Graham of Route 1.

Mrs. K. Foushee of near Sanford was in town Friday calling on Mrs. A. J. McRae, who is now making her home with her mother, Mrs. Loula Muse on Carthage street.

Miss Mollie Reed left for the Moore County Hospital Monday, where she will do general nursing.

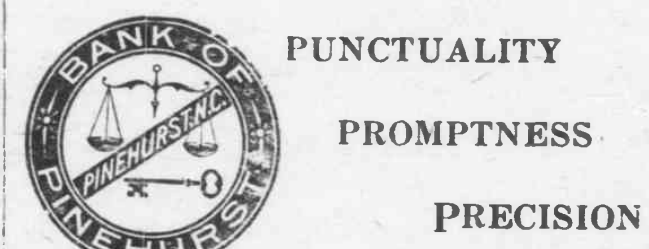
Truett Jones, having served his time with the U. S. Marines is at home with his father, C. C. Jones for a short while.

Miss Aileen Thomas had the misfortune to fracture an ankle bone last Saturday night as she was leaving J. A. Phillip's store. She was carried to the hospital for examination, but is recuperating at home now.

W. D. BUIE IN AUTO WRECK WHICH COSTS TWO LIVES

W. D. Buie, brother-in-law of Mrs. D. W. McNeill of Cameron, had a narrow escape from death in an automobile accident which took two lives in South Carolina during Christmas week. Mr. Buie was driving a truck when a coupe, driven by James Ford, of New York city, collided with him. Ford's sister and a young man, said to have been her fiance, were killed and Ford injured and rushed to a hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. McNeill spent New Year's day in Dillon, S. C., where Mr. and Mrs. Buie reside and where Mr. Buie is recovering from his injuries. Mrs. Buie and Mrs. McNeill are sisters.



Another year has past. Unless all signs fail nineteen-thirty will long be remembered as the beginning of the end of an extraordinary era in United States history. As the years from eighteen ninety to nineteen hundred are satirically and antithetically called "the gay nineties," so the decade ending with nineteen thirty may become derisively known as the "dull twenties." For it has been far from dull.

We are apparently entering a period of readjustment during which the nation and its individuals must struggle manfully to catch up with the bewildering multitude of new discoveries, devices and systems that have in more senses than one, carried us off our feet.

Probably economic depressions are necessary to compel such readjustment, for as long as credit is plenty and business is easy, men have time and means to devote to the perfection and introduction of innovations and will continue such work until such a pace is reached that the economic structure breaks down and demands a respite.

But there is consolation in the fact that we have now descended from our wild flights into unexplored spaces with grim determination to master these Juggernauts and so guide them that they will no longer crush their devotees when they throw themselves under the wheels, but will be controlled and made of lasting benefit to mankind.

So come on now, a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether! BANK OF PINEHURST, Pinehurst, N. C.

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