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SALARY SYSTEM SHOULD COME.

Here is something to put up to your candidate for the next Legislature—Fee System For County Officers is Draining Public Funds of Millions That Salary System Would Save for Building Roads and Other Improvements.

I believe that I can tell the farmers how to get good roads without it costing them one penny, either in taxes or in contributions.

The only trouble is that the advocates of my plan will have to face the opposition of the various county officials throughout the entire South,—our county court clerks, registers, masters of chancery, etc.

These men are practically all on "fees." Only in rare instances is one on a stipulated salary. If put upon a salary basis they would not want the office, as the fees are many times what their services are worth.

\$93 for a Day's Work.

The writer was recently at a "good roads rally" in west Tennessee. Late in the evening he joined a prominent county official and went with him to his office. The Courthouse doors were wide open and we walked into his office to chat awhile. Lying on his desk was a bundle of documents and he picked them up and began to count. A smile of satisfaction overspread his face and he turned and said, "Pretty fat for one day's work." I asked him what they were and he said, "Mortgages." I asked how many there were and what he received as a fee on each one. He replied, "Only \$1 each, and there are 93 of them." I then asked him what sort of mortgages they were and he replied that they were mostly on farms and live stock, given by farmers to a big country merchant on "advances" for the coming crop.

\$4,000 a Year While a Deputy Did The Work.

All he had to do to record these mortgages, was to copy them in a book made and printed at the expense of the county. He did not even have to copy these documents, for in this big register there were blank forms in the exact words of the mortgages themselves, with blank spaces, and all he had to do was to "fill in" these spaces.

"Do you mean to say," I asked, "that you get \$93 for simply recording those mortgages, and if so, for heaven's sake, what does this office pay you in a year's time?"

"Why, certainly I get a dollar each," he replied. "Things have been rather dull this year and I won't make more than \$400. The farmers seem to have more money upon which to operate their farms than heretofore."

I was astounded. Here was a little county, not important in the affairs of the State, that was paying its County Register \$4,000 per year in a "dull" year.

I know this man to be actively engaged in farming and real estate, to say nothing of being interested in other industries. He paid a deputy a good salary to conduct the affairs of this office and he himself scarcely ever entered it—except to sign a bunch of documents after they accumulated. It is safe to say he did not spend six hours a week attending to the duties of his office. This official pays his deputy possibly \$100 per month, and even the deputy is idle most of the time. He does not do half the work in a day that some poor, delicate little shop girl does behind a drygoods counter in some city, nor does he begin to do in a week what some farm-wife does in a day.

\$20,000 a Year for a County Clerk.

I use this case simply as an illustration of hundreds of such cases in the South. I have been told that the County Court Clerk of Shelby County, Tennessee, makes fully \$20,000 a year, after paying several deputies good salaries to do the work—while he stays at home in winter and goes fishing in the summer. I have been told that the Master of Chancery there (a mere boy appointed by his father, who is Chancellor and only makes \$2,500 himself) makes \$15,000 a year net to him; that the County Register makes fully \$20,000. These men, I know, are rarely ever in their offices. Where are they?

Shelby is the biggest county in Tennessee, but all the others pay the same in proportion to their county officials. The denser the population, the more the offices pay.

It is safe to say that the county officials of Tennessee alone are paid enough every year to build a highway from Memphis (in the extreme west) to Knoxville (in the extreme east).

A saving of this enormous waste would thread the entire State with good roads and enhance the value of every foot of farm land in Tennessee. Farmers who are now shut off from the world and burdened with taxes

(for things they do not get) could face their homes on highways and send their children to school. It would save their live stock and equipment and do more towards making farm life attractive than any one thing.

Why Such Hard Scramble for Office? If all I say is not true, why is it that the county elections always wax so hot? Why is it that a man in office can afford to spend thousands of dollars to be elected again—when before he was an office-holder he had nothing at all?

More interest, as a rule, is taken in the county elections than is taken in the election of a Governor of a State.

The only claim the candidates have is their individual popularity among their followers. They have no "platform," except that "I have lived here all my life and earnestly solicit your vote." They can make no promises for they have no authority. Their work is mapped out by law and they are simply "fillers of blank forms."

And in what I am writing I use Tennessee only as an illustration. What is true of Tennessee is doubtless true of every state in the South.

Salary System is the Remedy.

What is the answer to it all? Put these men on a decent salary basis. When this is done, these "pie hunters" will not want the offices, and men who are really worthy and would give the work their own time and attention will be office-seekers in their stead. The "pie hunters" will go to work and learn what it really is to earn a dollar.

In saying what I have, I simply want to sow a seed in the minds of the farmers that I hope will take root and grow fast.

Agitate it in your community, take it up at your institute and Union meetings, and then when some fellow sticks up his head and says: "Boys, I want to go to the Legislature," make him produce. Don't let him tell you about the "finger prints on the corn-pones," and how he used to plow with an old "bull-tongue," and crack a few jokes to suit the occasion. "Make him produce."

If you will do this you can get good roads without its costing you a penny. It will reduce your taxes, enhance the value of your lands, save your live stock, make farm life worth living, and put school books under the arms and lunch baskets in the hands of your boys and your girls, and your neighbors' boys and your neighbors' girls, and Dixie will sing a song of deliverance.

It's going to take a long time to accomplish this. These fellows and their machines will control Legislatures awhile—but keep up the fight and you'll win.—J. A. M., Shelby Co., Tenn., in The Progressive Farmer.

FOUR OAKS NOTES.

Four Oaks, July 27.—Mrs. J. N. Halifax and little son, John, Jr., from Spartanburg, S. C., recently made a visit to her sister, Mrs. B. B. Adams.

Mrs. E. F. Vinson and son, of Macon, Ga., spent several days in the home of her brother, Mr. B. B. Adams. Her many friends will be glad to meet her again.

Look out for the date of the Old Maids' Convention, which is to be played here by local talent as soon as Mr. D. H. Sanders has his new Town Hall completed.

Several of the boys from Smithfield were here Friday night installing a Junior Order Council at this place.

The Masonic picnic passed off quietly there being only two arrests made. They promptly gave bond for their appearance before Mayor C. D. Stroup Friday.

A public meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was given in the Methodist church last Sunday night. Among the most prominent features of the program were: A reading from Miss Annie Adams and the Plea of the Nations given by Misses Pearl and Irene Baker, Pearl Keen, Gladys Adams, Annie Ford, Golda Creech, Annie Belle Langdon, Annie and Florence Adams. Mrs. T. H. Sutton deserves much credit for the arrangement of the very interesting programme and splendid manner in which it was carried out.

Messrs. Chas. I. Pierce and R. B. Strickland made a business trip to Kenly Tuesday afternoon.

There was a meeting of the stockholders of Four Oaks Banking Co. (prospective) Tuesday afternoon to appoint a committee of arrangements to apply for charter, etc.

Messrs. W. E. and W. M. Barbour made a business trip to Smithfield Saturday.

Mr. O. A. Privette, operator here, has been transferred to Contentnea for a few days. Mr. Pat. Barefoot takes his place. Mrs. Privette and children are visiting in Black Creek.

Mr. Lonnie Keen has accepted a position with the Massengill Hardware Company.

A GOOD WOMAN PASSES.

Death, the Reaper, Claims Mrs. J. J. Dupree At Dunn.

When the announcement was made last Wednesday night that Mrs. J. J. Dupree had passed from time to eternity, many hearts in our town were made sad, for they realized that our town had lost a most valuable and splendid woman, and the passing of her spirit into the Eternal Beyond meant a personal loss to nearly every one of the town. She was a true and devoted wife, a loyal and sincere friend, a good and excellent neighbor, and in all these offices she exhibited those delightful virtues of kindness and gentleness and sympathy and consideration, which made her ministry so lovable and so tender. Her life was gemmed with good deeds, and many have called her blessed, for her life shed a beam of sunlight in the path wherever she chanced to go.

Mrs. Dupree was a member of the Methodist church, and was a faithful, and consecrated Christian. Before marriage she was Miss Fannie Howard Toler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan B. Toler, of Johnston County, residing near Bentonsville. She was born April 2nd, 1872, married to Mr. J. J. Dupree September 18th, 1895, to which union four children were born, two sons and two daughters, all of whom preceded the mother to the Glory Land. She leaves a father and mother who still reside in Johnston, two sisters, Mrs. J. L. Massey, of Princeton, N. C., Mrs. D. G. Rhodes, of Mount Olive, N. C. and one brother, Mr. S. S. Toler, of Rocky Mount.

The funeral service was conducted at the residence Thursday evening at five o'clock by her pastor, Rev. F. A. Bishop in the presence of a large number of sorrowing relatives and friends. The remains were laid to rest in Greenwood cemetery in a beautifully arranged burial vault. The funeral contribution was beautiful and spoke in silent language the great esteem and love of her many friends.—Dunn Guide, July 28.

Red Spiders in Cotton.

Red Spiders are giving trouble in cotton in several parts of the county. Mr. Gaston Fitzgerald has about an acre which they have gone over. Mr. C. H. Blackman found them in his cotton and has burned all the stalks on which he found them.

KENLY NOTES.

Kenly, July 27.—Miss Flossie Rackley, of Goldsboro, and Miss Lucile Edwards, of Seaboard, N. C., are visiting Misses Leone and Lillian Edgerton.

Miss Annie Yelverton, of Norfolk, Va., who has been visiting relatives and friends here has returned to Fremont.

Messrs. H. F. Edgerton and R. H. Alford made a flying trip to Selma Tuesday.

The Woman's Home Mission Society of the M. E. Church gave an ice cream supper on Mr. J. W. Darden's lawn Monday evening, the proceeds amounting to \$13.

Mr. J. B. Steele was in our town Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr. Will Wilkins sprained his ankle a few days ago, but we are glad to see him out again.

Miss Katie Woodall, of Smithfield, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Aycock.

Miss Cora Adams, of Linden, is visiting relatives and friends here. Prof. N. C. Wiker, of Elon College, was in our town Tuesday and Wednesday, the guest of Prof. S. G. Rollings.

Messrs. W. A. Edgerton and L. H. Allred were in our town Tuesday.

Mrs. H. F. Edgerton and children, Mrs. J. R. Sauls and Mr. and Mrs. Snipes left Tuesday for Hendersonville, N. C., to spend a few weeks.

Mrs. R. H. Alford and children left Tuesday for Montreat, N. C., where they will spend several weeks.

Miss Janie Bell returned to her home in Dunn Monday night, after having spent a few days with Miss Nina Darden.

The following spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Barnes; Dr. and Mrs. Dickinson, of Wilson, Mr. Albert Dicklason, of Fremont, and Mrs. Will Yelverton, of Norfolk, Va.

Miss Bessie Holland is visiting Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Holland.

Mr. Jarvis Edgerton has returned from a few days stay in Richmond.

Mr. Charlie Pierce was in our town Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Hughes and children are visiting relatives and friends here.

The Freewill Baptists of the eastern part of Cape Fear Conference will hold a union meeting at Yelvington's Grove church near Smithfield Friday night, Saturday and Sunday, July 29th, 30th and 31st.

CONFESSES AWFUL MURDER.

Rag-Picker Killed Five Children, Whose Father Was Convicted.

Tours, France, July 25.—A rag-picker named Joseph to-day confessed to the assassination on April 16, 1901, of five children of a farmer named Briere, in the vicinity of Chartres. The father of the children was found guilty of the murders, and sentenced to life imprisonment. He died in prison.

The trial of Briere attracted the attention of the whole of France. Four of his daughters, aged, respectively, fourteen, eleven, five and four, and his son, seven years of age, were found in bed one morning stabbed and beaten to death. The former was arrested, and charged by the police with the crime. According to a theory advanced by the police to prove a motive for the crime, Briere, who owned a small farm near Corancez, wishes to marry a woman of considerable wealth. Circumstantial evidence led to the conviction that the farmer, considering his family an encumbrance murdered his five children in order to carry out his wishes.

Briere stoutly maintained his innocence throughout the trial, and declared that two tramps entered the house during his absence and killed the children. He added that he returned while the murderers were robbing the house, and that they attacked him, and left him for dead. During the trial the judge got down from the bench and gave loud expression to his opinion of the guilt of the prisoner, while the spectators cried, "Kill him!" "kill him!" A specific incident of the trial occurred when Briere's surviving daughter, who the police declared, only escaped the fate of the other children by not responding to Briere's invitation to go to see him, went on the witness stand, sobbingly protested that her father was innocent, and begged the court to restore him to her.

SELMA NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Personal Items of Interest and Political Notes Reported By Our Regular Correspondent.

Selma, July 27.—Misses Isabell Mosely, of Kinston, is visiting her sister, Mrs. J. B. Person. Misses Eva and Ada Royal, of Wilson, are also on a visit to Mrs. Person.

Misses Pearl and Lucille Harris, of Clayton, are on a visit to their aunt, Mrs. W. B. Driver.

Miss Patty Walser, of Lexington, N. C., who has been on a visit to Miss Lizzie Winston, left for Morehead City Tuesday.

Mr. Avera Winston and Miss Lizzie Winston are visiting friends in Clayton.

Mr. W. A. Green has returned from Washington, D. C., where he has been on a visit to his mother.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert P. Noble are visiting Mrs. Noble's grand mother, Mrs. Newland, in Lenoir, N. C.

Miss Lula Tisdale, of Burlington, is on a visit to Mrs. Mamie Candler.

Mrs. G. A. Tuck is visiting her daughter, Mrs. R. A. Ashworth, in Norfolk, Va.

Mrs. L. D. Debnam is visiting Mrs. R. A. Ashworth at Portsmouth, Va.

Miss Norma Page, of Morrisville, N. C., is visiting her brother, L. D. Debnam, Esq.

Mrs. Ward, of Wilson, is on a visit to her sons, Messrs. N. E. and Walter Ward.

Mr. W. G. Smith has opened a bakery on Anderson Street and will be pleased to furnish bread to the hungry.

Mr. W. A. Green and his automobile doctor were called to Kenly to see the sick automobile of Mr. Sauls Wednesday.

Last week's Herald had the names of two of our citizens mentioned for the office of sheriff—Messrs. Robert Millard Nowell and Clarence W. Richardson.

Sheriff Nowell has made us an excellent officer and our people would be pleased to see him continued in office.

Mr. Richardson is in the hands of his friends. He has made no effort to secure the nomination; but, if the people of Johnston think he is the man for the position, we know him well enough to know he will not refuse the nomination and his many friends here will appreciate it.

The name of Mr. Albert M. Noble, of Smithfield, is mentioned as a candidate for the office of Clerk of the Superior Court. Mr. Noble is a son of Dr. R. J. Noble, of Selma, was educated at Turlington Institute and the University of North Carolina. He obtained license to practice law in 1907 and settled in Smithfield to practice his profession. He is a high toned honorable Christian gentleman who has many friends and no enemies. His many friends here would be more than

pleased should he win the nomination.

Politics, or rather the candidacy of aspirants for the several county offices, is now getting a little warm. Not that there is any hard feelings being made; but, rather the desire on the part of the friends of the several candidates to win. Some are for the old office holders—say they have made good officers and ought to be kept in. Others say that rotation in office is Democracy, that the office does not belong to any man, that four years, or two terms is long enough, that two terms was long enough for Jesse Morgan, Jim Oliver, Allen Smith, Jim Stephenson and Walter Edgerton for Register of Deeds, and for Tom Hood, John Futrell and Alex Wiggs for treasurer. Two terms long enough for James H. Abell and L. R. Waddell and why should we keep men in office for life or good behavior. Our Clerk of the Court has been in office for twenty years. A great many people cannot remember ever seeing another clerk in the office. He has made a good clerk, but, can we not get another? Are we to give the office to one man for life? If so, why have a vote every four years? Our people want rotation in office because it is Democracy and the good old county of Johnston is Democratic and will remain so.

New Candidate On New Platform.

Mr. Editor:

I am anxious for an office of some kind; don't care much what kind, but I want an office, and I shall soon become an annual or perennial candidate, and I think it prudent to briefly state my platform.

I am in favor of two terms for all county officers; the first term to be twenty years, with the right to a consecutive term of twenty years. Should an officer serve the full time of both the first and second terms, I think that he should never be allowed to hold another office during his natural life.

I am in favor of all superior court judges and probate judges being appointed for the term of their natural lives and no longer. I am also in favor of all officers serving on the European plan with the right however to name their salaries or fees. I always thought that good officers should be allowed to say what their charges should be for their services.

I am opposed to resolutions, I am in favor of making it a misdemeanor for a County Convention to pass any resolutions that would in any way interfere with the fees or salaries of any county officer. I am in favor of repealing all laws contrary to my sentiment.

I am in favor of a strict enforcement of the prohibition law. I think that church members, officers of the law, lawyers, doctors and farmers should not be interfered with especially church members in good standing. I am in favor of a state church on the order of the church of England with a few provisos. All towns of less than fifteen hundred inhabitants shall only be allowed one church for the whites and everybody compelled to attend said church at least once a year.

I am in favor of good roads for automobiles only.

I am in favor of all honorary officers such as county commissioners and justices of the peace paying a privilege tax. I think that the commissioners should pay a privilege tax of two dollars for each day they serve as such. I think that justices of the peace should pay twenty five dollars per annum, and not required to have any qualifications whatever for their office and be entitled to all fines and costs originating and tried in their respective courts.

I am in favor that high beer saloons should be required to sell good beer instead of "nigh."

I am opposed to common dogs and believe when a mad dog is seen the owner should be looked up and shot.

I believe the town of Smithfield should be required to allow the sheriff and treasurer to reside there.

I believe that all agitators for rotation in office should be tried and if found guilty should be punished by death.

I think that lawyers, doctors, dentists, and automobile owners should pay an annual license tax of one hundred dollars to go to the road fund.

I am in favor of making the people the servants of the officers rather than the officers the servants of the people.

Now, Mr. Editor, if I cannot be elected upon this platform I do not care for an office at all.

Respectfully,
OFFICE SEEKER.

To repel one's cross is to make it heavier.—Amiel.

OUR IMMENSE EXPORT TRADE.

Cotton Comes First With a Total Value of Four Hundred and Fifty Million Dollars. Copper, Illuminating Oil and Wheat Follow in Order Named.

Washington, July 25.—Cotton, copper, illuminating oil, wheat—these articles in the order named formed the most important articles exported from the United States during the fiscal year just closed. The value of the cotton exported was \$450,000,000 of the copper \$83,500,000; of the illuminating oil \$62,500,000 and of the wheat \$47,000,000.

Other articles of export ranked in value as follows: Flour, lard, tobacco, lumber, upper leather, corn, bituminous coal and lubricating oil. In nearly all of the articles of natural production there was a marked decline in the exports of 1910 as compared with previous years, while in certain manufactures the figures for the year are larger than for any previous year and the total for all manufactures probably will exceed that of any earlier year. The bureau of statistics, which has given out these figures, has not yet completed the total value of the manufactures exported.

The falling off is most marked in corn, wheat, flour and meats, wheat falling from \$161,000,000 in 1892, the high year to \$47,000,000 in 1910; corn from \$85,000,000 in 1900 to \$25,500,000 in 1910; flour from \$75,000,000 in 1893 to \$46,500,000 in 1910; lard from \$60,000,000 in 1906 to \$43,000,000 in 1910; bacon from \$46,000,000 in 1893 to \$18,500,000 in 1910; fresh beef from \$32,000,000 in 1901 to \$7,750,000 in 1910 and cattle from \$42,000,000 in 1904 to \$12,000,000 last year.

BENSON NEWS.

Benson, July 27.—Miss Maude Hall returned from Fayetteville Sunday after spending several days there with relatives.

Prof. Ira T. Turlington, of Smithfield, visited his mother who lives near town last Monday.

Rev. W. G. Hall, of Rocky Mount, is spending some time here with his brothers this week.

Messrs. E. L. and J. L. Hall went down to Fayetteville Wednesday afternoon to see their mother.

Mr. Jos. Martin, of Yadkinville, and Dr. J. F. Martin, of Advance, are visiting their brother, Dr. W. T. Martin, this week.

Rev. T. B. Justice, the pastor, preached at the Baptist church Sunday morning and night. The morning service was on the subject "Is the Young Man Safe," and was especially uplifting.

Mr. P. F. Putnam who lives on the farm of J. P. Canaday near town, has the finest peach crop your correspondent has ever seen. The orchard covers about one and one half acres and from it Mr. Putnam has sold about \$50.00 worth of peaches and canned about 300 gallons, and the trees are still covered with luscious fruit. Mr. Putnam is a brother of Rev. D. F. Putnam and is a splendid farmer.

On last Saturday afternoon Alvester Capps, a son of Mack Capps, was drowned at Parrish's pond, about one and a half miles from town. It seems that Capps had been at work distributing guano and went down to the pond to bathe and got in where the water was too deep for him, could not swim and was drowned. He leaves a widow and several children. He was buried Sunday afternoon at the family burying ground.

THE WICKED HARVEST WHEAT.

Georgetown, Ky., July 22.—A novel method to save the wheat crop of Scott county was resorted to to-day, when a number of farmers appeared before the county judge and paid the fines of ten prisoners in the jail in order to get help to harvest the crop.

In several instances the fine ran as high as \$30. All the prisoners went willingly.

Mrs. Coats Entertains.

Four Oaks, July 27.—Mrs. Starling W. Coats entertained on Monday evening in honor of her guest, Miss Narra Carter, of Baltimore, Md.

At the appointed hour quite a shower of young people gathered and were delightfully entertained. The reception hall and dining room were tastefully decorated with copious ferns and hydrangea.

Mrs. Elizabeth Carter, also of Baltimore, also assisted Mrs. Coats in dispensing the honors of the evening. On Saturday Miss Carter and her mother will depart for Ocean View to spend a fortnight.