

Judge J. A. Hobbs Speech at Robersonville introducing Hon. J. A. Hobbs

My friends let me briefly relate what to most of you is a matter of history but to some I see here was a living reality. Forty-five years ago last April when this great State of ours was being agitated from one end to the other with preparation for the most gigantic conflict for constitutional freedom that has ever been recorded in the annals of history. The tocsin of war had been sounded and ere the thunder of the guns against Sumpter had been wasted away upon the Southern breeze, thousands of our young men then the flower of our state were responding to the call for arms. There was a young man of our county then in the flower of his young manhood who was the first to obey that call in defense of his native state and enlisted under the Southern Cross as Second Lieutenant of one of the first companies of this county, and heroically he followed that cross for four years until on that memorable 9th of April 1865 on the proud army of Northern Virginia being overpowered by superior numbers were compelled to lay down their arms and with thousands from Northern prisons became paroled prisoners, "but not slaves" they furled and laid down those shell and bullet riddled banners they had so often followed to victory and turned their backs upon the struggles of war, and wended their way to their desolate and devastated homes, there to take up the burden of life anew and rebuild this war riddled country. This young man was one of them who has striven to build up for us a glorious country, he has been an honored and respected citizen in your midst for forty odd years, has held positions of trust and responsibility and is holding a position of trust among you, one of the Board of Education of your County. But my friends let me roll back the scroll of years and go with me in your mind to the Heights of Gettysburg on that memorable 3rd day of July 1863, where we were confronting each other Lee and Meade commanding the grandest armies whose tread had had ever shaken the American Continent about to engage in a mighty death struggle, and in that heroic charge with the roar of cannon and rattle of musketry and amidst the cries of the wounded and dying, that line of patriots and heroes being overcome by superior numbers and advantage of position were compelled to fall back and abandon the struggle. When the smoke of battle had lifted there was found near the Federal lines three men from North Carolina one of whom was killed and the other two were taken prisoners. There has been erected, and is standing there today three tablets of stone to mark the spot where those of the Confederate Army farthest to the front were found, and my friends there is engraved on those tablets of stone the names of those three heroes. On one the name of Captain Satterfield, on another is the name of Lieutenant Falls, and on the third is engraved the name of Ser. J. A. Whitley, whom I now present to you as our next representative in the General Assembly of North Carolina.

#### Hunting for Trouble

"I've lived in California 20 years, and am still hunting for trouble in the way of burns, sores, wounds, boils, cuts, sprains, or a case of piles that Buckle's Arnica Salve won't quickly cure writes Charles Walters of Alleghany, Sierra Co. No use hunting, Mr. Walters, it cures every case, Guaranteed S. R. Biggs drug store, 25c."

The president wants a bigger navy, congress wants a bigger salary, Chancellor day wants bigger trusts, the Philippine troops wants bigger pistols, Senator Jeff Davis wants wants bigger rows in the Senate. Say, doesn't somebody wants a little something?"

#### wild Hog Story

Robersonville, N. C., Feb. 5, 1907  
Editor Enterprise.

Williamston, N. C.  
Sir:—We have had quite a little experience up here in the wild hog business, and a good many of the people up here wish to have it published in the columns of your paper. The romance is as follows:

In January 1905 Mr. J. H. Smith was hunting along the banks of Trautner Creek when he discovered a female hog with several small pigs, perhaps one week old, he never one time thought they were wild hogs. Mr. Smith visited this same territory once or twice a month until he commenced to think about these hogs, and on one occasion when he saw these hogs he concluded that they must be wild hogs, but still thinking they were some near neighbors, he went to this neighbor and inquired about the hogs. The neighbor told him he had no such hogs, but to satisfy Mr. Smith, he went down in the old field where he had seen the hogs several times and being quite sure if he would stay a short time he would see the hogs, he went down and raked up a large pile of pine straw and covered himself up till the hogs would come by. When the hogs came in view he discovered at once that they were wild, as they had long hair and were unmarked; they appeared to be about a year old.

Mr. Smith never told any one about these hogs. He rambled the woods day after day looking for the bed of these hogs and when he found it he commenced bait them and in the meantime made a pen to catch them. He put up piece by piece until he had the pen as strong as he thought necessary to hold them, and then put trap door in the pen and tied a piece of rope thirty yards long to the trap door intending to slip there about midnight to pull the door down and catch the hogs, but owing to a very heavy rain before the time to go the rope got too heavy and pulled the door down itself. When Mr. Smith arrived near the pen about one o'clock in the night he discovered that the pen was full of hogs. While inspecting the pen of hogs one of them escaped, crawling out of the pen like a dog.

Mr. Smith inquired about the hogs and finally located the owner of the mother of the drove of wild hogs and paid him six dollars for his interest. Mr. Smith sold the hogs, one to Mr. J. S. C. Benjamin, two to Mr. D. E. Burch, two to Mr. James Roberson; Mr. Roberson's hogs died, Mr. Benjamin's got out, and was never seen again. Mr. Burch's did likewise.

In January 1905 Mr. Mc G. Wynn discovered some wild hogs in Flat Swamp, but never told any one about it until a few weeks ago when he made known to several of his friends what he had found, and started to catch them. He had been feeding the hogs for some four or five months trying to tame them. On February 4, he completed his trap, and when he went to the pen Tuesday morning, he found two very large hogs in his trap weighing 324 pounds and they had tufts 3 1/2 to 4 inches long.

Mr. Wynn came back to town, got several of his friends, Messrs. J. E. Roberson, A. L. Robuck, J. H. Smith and went back to bring his prize to town. When they arrived at the trap there were several more men down there who had heard the story and went to see the parties catch the wild animals. While they were capturing the hogs several other wild hogs came running up and scared some of the men nearly to death. Mr. J. S. C. Benjamin climbed a tree and another took refuge in the carts. Messrs. J. E. Roberson, A. L. Robuck, J. H. Smith and Mr. G. Wynn remained at their post until the wild hogs were tied and put in the carts. They were carried to town and put in a pen at Mr. Wynn's home.

He will undoubtedly have some very fine wild hogs in a short time. These are the same hogs that Mr. Smith found in January 1905, and captured by him later, the same marks and the same color.

J. H. SMITH

#### HOW TO SHOW A PROFIT.

Tricky Bookkeeping Puts Losses on the Profit Side.

The printed report of a municipal electric light plant in Indiana has just been received. It shows a profit. There is no question about it. It shows a large profit. The figures are there in black and white, and they show a profit equivalent to 30 per cent of the gross income and 18 per cent on the capital invested. That is what we call a profitable business.

How was this plant able to make so good a showing? In a way so simple that any municipal plant could adopt it with success if its superintendent were good at figures. And the best of it is that it makes competition by private plants impossible because well, stockholders are too inquisitive.

In the first place the fixed charges for interest on the capital invested and for depreciation were entirely ignored. Then no allowance was made for taxes lost by having municipal instead of private ownership. Next, while full charge was made against the water department and the city offices for lights and supplies, the superintendent conveniently forgot to charge the lighting plant with the water used in its boilers and condensers or with its share of the salaries in the city accounting department. Insurance was also overlooked. Finally, to make assurance of profit doubly sure, a number of items properly pertaining to maintenance were charged to "new construction." At the same time the charge for street and public building lights was quite as high as in surrounding cities served by private companies, which had somehow or other to provide for all these items.

It is perhaps needless to add that except for the judicious way in which the superintendent prepared his report a considerable deficit would have appeared instead of the gratifying profits. Of course the taxpayers will have to provide the money to make good these poor profits, but they may not for some years see the connection between their profitable plant and the higher tax rate, and meanwhile are happy in the contemplation of its profits and will doubtless testify enthusiastically to the benefits of municipal ownership.

From the above we may deduce the following rule for showing a profit: First, omit all items of expense that can without too much danger of detection be saddled upon the general tax list or other departments; second, charge in as vague a way as possible new construction as many items of maintenance as may be necessary to show a large profit. (N. B.—The profit must be large to provide for the contingency of some carping critic discovering one or more of the concealed items of expense and ruthlessly drawing them forth from their hiding places.)

If the above rule is scrupulously followed there seems to be no reason why every municipal plant should not show a profit.—"Concerning Municipal Ownership."

#### GONE OUT OF BUSINESS.

Millions Sunk In Unsuccessful Municipal Lighting Plants.

During the past few years at least sixty cities and towns in the United States have sold, leased or abandoned their lighting plants. In a few cases they still retain their distributing system, buying the current from some company, but in most instances they have gone out of the business entirely. A number of other places have made unsuccessful efforts to dispose of their plants.

As with few exceptions municipal lighting plants have been in operation but a short time, this is a remarkable showing of failure and one, it need hardly be said, that is seriously avoided by those who for ends of their own are urging other cities to make similar experiments.

As it usually takes some years for it to realize how great a burden it is carrying in its lighting plant, it is probable that the number of admitted failures will increase rapidly from now on, for, as an eminent electrical engineer recently said, "There are already indications that a considerable number of these municipalities which have engaged in improper undertakings are entering upon a period of financial difficulty."

#### Faults Enough As It Is.

The political machine that dominates New York City is strong because large powers are delegated to it, and the expenditure of \$100,000,000 is given absolutely into its keeping. We have faults enough without municipal ownership in most of the cities of this country, and the ordinary business man fails to see the wisdom of making the situation more complex and dubious than it is by adding the problem of municipal ownership with all that it implies.—Binghamton Herald.

"H."

"Municipal ownership," remarks the Winnipeg Free Press, "should not be blamed because of its tendency to increase municipal debt, provided the new enterprises are made to be fully self-sustaining." Neither is dynamite dangerous if carefully handled. It is just about as safe to intrust the management of a municipalized service to the average municipal council as it would be to engage a seven-year-old boy to handle dynamite.—Montreal Gazette.

#### Who Would Fine the City?

An exchange notes the fact that a city council recently fined a water company \$1,000 for supplying impure and unwholesome water. That is right. But if the waterworks had been owned by the city—

#### AN HONEST GRAFTER

#### A Glimpse Into the Future of Municipal Ownership.

A Thumb Nail Sketch of a "Practical Politician"—The Profits of an All Around "Servant of the People, Who Sees His Opportunities and Took 'Em."

"Honest graft" will reach its highest level when, as predicted by the enthusiasts, the principles of municipal ownership are accepted by New York and the city controls the trolley lines, the electric light and gas works and all the ferries as well as the water-works and the police, the fire and the street departments.

Then such patriots as George Washington Plunkitt, for many years organization leader of the Fifteenth district in New York, will reap rewards of greater magnitude than they have ever been able to gather under the present order of things.

Perhaps you have never heard about Mr. Plunkitt's "honest graft" schemes. He told about them himself in a book published last year, which was introduced by a paragraph endorsing him as a "veteran leader of the organization," signed by its greatest chief.

Plunkitt was sore because there were some objections to graft being made out of the city by men like him, and in the first chapter of his book he uttered a vigorous protest. "Blackmailin' gamblers, saloon keepers, disorderly people, etc.," he admitted to be "wrong. That was 'dishonest graft.'

"But," he added, "there's an honest graft, and I'm an example of how it works. I seen my opportunities and I took 'em."

Mr. Plunkitt's explanation of how he did these things will illuminate the possibilities of future municipal ownership days, if they ever come.

After elucidating the ways he was "tipped off" at various times by members of his party—the party in power—when new bridges, new parks, new streets were to be opened, so that he might invest in real estate likely to rise in price from the improvements contemplated, he adds: "I haven't confined myself to land. Anything that pays is in my line." Then he gives a specific instance:

Learning that the city was about to repave a certain street and so would have several hundred thousand old paving blocks to sell, he was "on hand" to buy them. "I knew just what they were worth." But a newspaper "tried to do him" and got some outside men from Brooklyn and New Jersey to bid against him. Mr. Plunkitt's own words tell the story best:

"Was I done? Not much. I went to each of the men and said, 'How many of those 250,000 stones do you want?' One said 20,000, and another wanted 15,000, and another wanted 10,000. I said, 'All right; let me bid for the lot, and I'll give each of you all you want for nothin'.'

"They agreed, of course. Then the auctioneer yelled, 'How much am I bid for these fine pavin' stones?'

"Two dollars and fifty cents," says I. "Two dollars and fifty cents!" screamed the auctioneer. "Oh, that's a joke. Give me a real bid."

"He round the bid was real enough. My rivals stood silent. I got the lot for \$2.50 and gave them their share. That's how the attempt to do Plunkitt ended, and that's how all such attempts end."

It is hardly necessary, in the light of this authentic statement of "honest graft's" workings, to enlarge upon the extended opportunities that would come to the men of the Plunkitt stamp were the dream of municipal ownership to come true. Plunkitt says "most politicians who are accused of robbing the city get rich the same way" he did. "They didn't steal a dollar from the city. They just seen their opportunities and took them."

While in the legislature Plunkitt introduced the bills that provided for the outlying parks of New York, the Harlem river speedway, the Washington bridge, the One Hundred and Fifty-fifth street viaduct, additions to the Museum of Natural History and many other important public improvements. He is now a millionaire. Under the proposed order of things, with city control of everything, he might become a billionaire.

Under municipal ownership of all public utilities in New York—and in most other cities in fact—politicians like Plunkitt, who at different times has been elected state senator, assemblyman, county supervisor and alderman by his fellow citizens, besides serving as police magistrate for one term, and who boasts of his record in filling four public offices in one year and drawing salaries from three of them at the same time, would flourish like a whole grove of green bay trees.

#### Go Slow on City Ownership.

Until politics in America is purified far beyond its present condition any large experiment in government ownership may be called a "thief breeding with match safety." The more authority there is vested in the hands of politicians (with all due deference to our national administration) the more corruption there will be. It is a shortsighted citizen who would take more business out of private hands and commit it to the tender mercies of the politicians.—Troy Press.

#### Another Plant Abandoned.

After many years' trial of its municipal electric lighting plant Alexandria, Va., has finally leased the works to a private corporation for a period of thirty years. The lessee paid \$25,000 for the plant, which had cost the city \$17,000.

#### MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

All Right in Theory, but Breaks Down in Practice.

Theoretically there is so much in municipal ownership of public utilities that the practical carrying out of its attractive features appears simple and of no serious moment, and for a municipality to take over and run water, lights, sewerage and even transportation appeals to taxpayers, and the trade is made without the first assurance that the conduct of these properties will be along practical and business lines.

It is the failure to assure the practical that works the evil, for municipal ownership is a general ownership, and a general ownership results too easily in its being no special business of any citizen or taxpayer to look into or inquire after the conduct of the properties under control. This leaves the management to a few, who soon find that they have only themselves to account to, that people are too busy to demand accounts and taxpayers accept any kind of report, just as there is the appearance of all being right and light, water, sewerage, etc., are given.

It is this indifference and neglect on the part of taxpayers to take note of municipal affairs which make municipal ownership of public utilities a hazardous and expensive matter. The theory of municipal ownership, with its great saving to each taxpayer, the extra service given and the great profits resulting, can all be placed in figures beforehand, but it is a failure unless the taxpayers shall give earnest and serious heed to the conduct of these public utilities, for unless this is done they will wake up some day with broken down properties and a big bond issue to make good.—Newbern Weekly Journal.

#### THE GREAT TRANSITION.

Public Property Wasted Because "It Costs Nothing, You Know."

"Hello!" said I. "What's that?" And I stopped to pick it up.

"That?" replied the boy who happened to be passing through the school yard with me. "That is nothing but a lead pencil."

"But it is a whole one," said I, "and with a rubber on the end."

"I know it," said the boy.

"What? Do you mean to tell me that you have seen this here before?"

"Yes, everybody's seen it."

"All the children in your school have seen this lying here day after day and not one boy has picked it up?"

"Of course. What should we pick it up for? There's plenty in the schoolhouse."

And I had been given a text for a long meditation. Not pick up a whole lead pencil! And a pencil with a rubber on it!

When I was a boy we prized even slate pencils. A boy who hooked any body's slate pencil was baited until he gave it up, but a lead pencil—we fought for lead pencils as the Greeks and Trojans fought for Helen. We scored the countryside for old horseshoes to sell to the blacksmith for money enough to buy a lead pencil and, having it, we cut our private mark on it, guarded it, kept it as our last resource in trade. Many a time a precious two inch lead pencil has turned an important jackknife trade one way or the other. I never had but one lead pencil at a time and very often hardly that until I was fifteen years old. And these ten-year-olds score to pick up a whole one with a rubber! Think of it! The best eraser I had was a piece of rubber boot heel!—Henry T. Bailey in Journals of Education.

It's the highest standard of quality, a natural tonic, cleanse you system, reddens the cheeks, brightens the eyes, gives flavor to all you eat Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea will do this for you 35 cents, Tea or Tablets J. M. Whiter & Co. Robersonville.

The Birmingham News speaks of peaches, both the animal and vegetable varieties". In other words, "pears and fruit."

It is reported that the immortal 167 discharged coon soldiers have thus far refrained from joining the "Roosevelt Third Term."

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The Birmingham News