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Too Much Secret Government

Judge T. B. Finley upheld a fine principle of government this week when he forced the sheriff of Alexander County to furnish the names of a bunch of Charlotte youths who had been arrested at Taylorsville to the Charlotte News.

There is too much secret government going on. It is a common habit to see county boards and town boards clear the halls for the purpose of executive sessions. It is nothing less than arrogance and contempt for the higher power—the people—to run

Bookkeeping, Past and Present

County government seems to be one of the big questions of the day. Nobody seems to quite know just why so much criticism has been launched against it, yet some folks who have kept their eyes skinned have a firm impression that most of the smoke comes from auditor flabbergast.

There seems to be a general habit among some auditing concerns to insinuate that great discrepancies are found every time they audit a county. They frequently cast a fit of consternation in boards of county commissioners, and make them afraid to do anything, virtually taking government out of their hand.

In Beaufort County, according to flying statements, auditing companies are intimating heavy losses to the county by some of the principal county officers.

In our own county, we have only one man in the county who knows anything about its finances; we have only one man in the county who can take our books and make a statement of our county's finances. That man is J. Sam Getsinger, who is now doing the work according to the plans set out and directed by an auditor. It will become necessary for the county to hire another auditor to come and tell Sam how he stands some time this summer.

There was a time when many men, not nearly so well trained as we now have them, could check up every department in our county and show every penny of income and every cent disbursed each year. We make this

FOR CONSTIPATION

Mississippi Man Says He Has Found Black-Draught So Satisfactory, He Has No Need to Change.

Wiggins, Miss.—Mr. A. L. Cone, a well known Wiggins resident, says: "I have used Theford's Black-Draught for constipation. I have never had to take a great deal of medicine, but for fully 30 years I have, by using it, known Black-Draught to be a great medicine, and when I found it so satisfactory, I haven't seen any need to change."

"When I get constipated, I feel all out of sorts and tired and sluggish and I take a few doses of Black-Draught. It regulates my bowels and I get all right. My wife takes more Black-Draught than I do. She is a great believer in it too, so we keep it in the house. It will cleanse the system and help you, if you use it as we have."

Constipation leads to a great deal of sickness among those who do not understand its dangers, and who neglect to treat it without delay. Black-Draught, with the natural, prompt action of its purely vegetable ingredients, quickly relieves constipation and helps to drive out the poisons so as to leave the organs in a state of healthy activity. Sold everywhere, 25c. NC-179

Theford's **BLACK-DRAUGHT** Purely Vegetable

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

To the mayor and commissioners of the town of Williamston, N. C.:
Gentlemen: About two years ago this board saw fit to elect me its treasurer. This expression of confidence on their part has inspired within me an earnest desire to measure up to this important trust, and being in a position to know a little more about the financial condition of the town than most of you gentlemen I feel like a few remarks along this line will not be out of order before our term of office expires.

As you gentlemen have found out by experience that after any new board has been sworn in, it takes time for them to get a line on the difficult matters that confront them. Soon after this present board was sworn in, we tried to get some bearing upon the financial condition of the town, but it was up-hill traveling. We did find that the town owed \$15,000 borrowed money, and about \$3,000 of outstanding indebtedness on open accounts in and out of town. I am glad to be able to state that during our administration the \$15,000 have been paid; also all the old bills; and at this writing our notes payable to the bank are only \$1,200.00. Against this note of \$1,200 we have as collateral a school board note due us by the school board amounting to \$1,065.71. If you will deduct this from \$1,200, you will find that all we owe on borrowed money is \$134.29. We owed Fairbanks Morse Co. \$18,000 for the oil engine bought from them; we have paid them, up to date, about \$9,000, or about one-half; and their notes become due every quarter, and we have always paid these promptly when presented. The amount falling due each quarter on the oil engine is approximately \$1,140 per quarter, and this debt will soon be wiped out. As to our other bills payable, outside of about \$800 due for hose for the fire department I should say that we owe about \$400 more, which we are in a financial position to take care of as they become due.

Taxation—that great burden bearer and but little understood by the average layman: But for your information, I added the total taxes as listed by Mr. Burras on the town books this week, and I found the total white taxes listed, including A. C. L. R. R., paving, poll, and dog tax, to amount to \$34,271.81; total colored taxes listed, including paving, poll, and dog tax, \$5,467.44; making a grand total of white and colored taxes of \$39,739.25; of this amount, Mr. Daniel, our tax collector, has collected and turned over to me in general taxes \$17,715.92, and \$573.20 special taxes. This leaves general taxes due the town, uncollected, \$20,023.33. I understand from Mr. Daniel that he has two or three thousand dollars of general taxes in the bank which he has not turned over to me, and I advise that a strong advertisement be put in the Enterprise calling the citizens' attention to the law about paying taxes, and to advise every man, woman, child, and corporation, who owns real estate, that if

their taxes are not paid on or before May 1, that same will be advertised on that date, showing no favors to any

As to bonds and interest on same—At present our bonded indebtedness is \$340,500.00. The interest on bonds is around \$20,000 per year; and the bonds maturing each year are around \$11,000. So you can see that the burden of our taxation is on bonds. With a total taxable list of \$37,739.25 per annum, and a total indebtedness per annum due for bonds and interest around \$31,000, this leaves a very small amount for a city manager to spend; say around \$7,000 left to meet all other obligations, including all departments. We could not meet these obligations unless we derived some money from other sources, so I will proceed to show you where we get some money from, besides taxes. Electric light and water operations for the past two years will show a profit of around \$20,000. This same account, before we took charge for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925, as made by the audit of the town books, Exhibit D-3, shows a net operating loss for that year of \$784.84. The profit has been used to retire outstanding obligations made before this board went into office, to pay first payment and quarterly payments on oil engine, to pay obligations on fire apparatus, and to meet maintenance and supplies.

We have made a cut of 25 cents in the tax rate during our administration; and I understand that a new tax assessment will be made this year. If this new assessment of taxes will hold up to about the same amount as the last year's assessment, I see no reason why the town commissioners, whoever they may be, could not make another cut of 25 cents to the town taxpayers.

I am glad to say that after a careful perusal of our budget, made by the writer and accepted by the board on or about June 1st, that the same has about lived within the allotment made to each department. I notice one or two departments have gone a little over and one or two have fallen a little under, but as a whole the budget will come out about even. I would recommend that the incoming board investigate the advisability of making some reductions in the light rates, especially on cooking and frigidaires; also recommend that the incoming board, unless we do so before going out of office, purchase some modern road and street-working machinery. However, I leave that matter to your committee, which has the same under advisement.

Your honor, Mr. Mayor, and fellow members of this board: I do not agree with the late President Woodrow Wilson, who said that "most boards he had known were long, wooden, and narrow." I feel like this board and its mayor have been broad and liberal, and I think each member has tried to do his full duty toward the citizens of this town, and personally it has been a pleasure for me to serve with this honorable body.

W. T. MEADOWS.

Gold Store

223 Washington Street



Exum L. Ward, Store Mgr.

PHONE 157

SPECIAL - - SPECIAL
For This Week Only

Rowena Middling, bag	\$2.10	Baby Chick Feed, bag	\$2.80
17 Per Cent Middling, bag	\$2.05	Eshelman Laying Mash, bag	\$3.10
Double A Dairy Feed, bag	\$2.60	Eshelman Growing Mash, bag	\$3
Dixie Scratch Feed, bag	\$2.65	Cracked corn, bag	\$2.25
A. G. Scratch Feed, bag	\$2.50	Beet Pulp, Cow Feed, bag	\$23.5

Stick Candy, Pound .. 15c

Just Rite Corn 2 for 25c Borden's Evaporated Milk Large 10c

Sugar, Pound 6½c

Tomatoes, No. 2 can 10c Best Side Meat, Pound 23c

Good Coffee, Pound .. 25c

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City Sedan \$745
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Never before has any automobile provided, at so low a price, so many qualities of costly-car performance and so many elements of custom-car beauty!

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Come to our salesroom and see the car that is breaking all records for popularity. One glance at the beautiful new Fisher bodies, one ride in your favorite model—and you will agree that the enthusiasm for Chevrolet is based on the greatest value achievement in the history of the automotive industry!

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