

The Franklin Press

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THE FRANKLIN PRESS PLATFORM

A commercial hotel for Franklin.
Extension of the sewer lines.
Beautify the school grounds.
Two hundred summer cottages.
A sewage disposal plant.
More official activity in the sale of surplus power.
The construction of business blocks.
Plant trees along the State highways of the county.
Make a white way of Main street.
An excellent school library.
A proper heating system for our school building.
Courteous treatment for visitors.
Improvement of county roads connecting with State highways.
Co-operation, vim, push, work—everything for the good of Franklin and Macon county.
New court house and jail combined.

How About It?

It is rumored that Asheville is offering a substantial reward for the capture and delivery to that city of one queen. Last known whereabouts, Pacific Coast.

Maybe the number of railroad wrecks these days is due to the scarcity of red petticoats.

The average Franklin boy becomes well acquainted with hardships when he is required to wash his neck and ears each morning.

Another thing to be thankful for the latter part of this month is that there isn't another general election this year.

A lot of men would rather be the moon than the sun. They figure they would see a lot more.

When it comes to choosing husbands, Franklin girls do as well as their mothers did.

Dancing, they say, is merely wasting time, but some young fellows seem to squeeze a lot of pleasure out of it.

Danger!

THE fact that a small school boy was recently struck by a motor vehicle serves again to call attention to the fact that traffic laws are constantly ignored in Franklin. The recent accident may or may not have been unavoidable. The fact remains that the school children, on their way to and from school, are not receiving the protection to which they are entitled.

Armistice Day

TODAY marks the eighth anniversary of the close of the World War. Many problems arising from that conflict are yet unsettled, and no man can predict when the scars will finally disappear.

When the armistice was signed more than four million Americans were under arms, and millions of others summoned to the colors. At 11:00 o'clock in the morning of November 11, 1918, the bugles along two hundred miles of battle front sounded "cease firing." Millions of weary men under arms, heard this call with shouts of gladness, while hundreds of millions in the various homelands celebrated the peace in mighty demonstrations of joy. Still other millions had passed to the Great Beyond during this sanguinary conflict. The people of every county, village and hamlet in the countries engaged had one or more sons who had made the supreme sacrifice.

It is to the dead in the World War from Macon county that we dedicate this day. Theirs is the honor, theirs the glory of having fought and died in the cause of human liberty and human rights—faithful even unto the end. We can do no less than cherish the ideals for which they fought, and thus keep faith with those who have crossed over the river.

The County Agent

THE news carried in the Press two weeks ago concerning the transfer of County Agent Arrendale to another county, has caused widely spread indignation. Regardless of party affiliations, farmers in many sections of the county are discussing the advisability of cir-

culating petitions addressed to the county commissioners requesting them to use their influence with the district agent to keep Mr. Arrendale in Macon county. The farmers of this county know what our county agent has done for the county, and, in our opinion, a great majority of our farmers are bitterly opposed to having Mr. Arrendale transferred. No doubt the commissioners are aware of this sentiment among the majority of the farmers of the county and we, therefore, do not believe that our commissioners will be influenced by the growl of a few disgruntled men who, for personal reasons, desire to see Mr. Arrendale transferred.

The recent re-election of the two Democratic members of the commission was nothing more nor less than a mandate from the people to continue all progressive movements affecting the county. Messrs. Cabe, Pierson, and McClure are progressive men—men who will devote their time, energy and brains to the advancement of Macon county. It is, therefore, extremely unlikely that they will permit the transfer of Mr. Arrendale to go through, since such transfer would, in all probability leave Macon county without the services of a county agent.

A Corn Grower

YES sir, folks, agriculturally Macon county is hard to beat. The Press is thinking of making its office a sort of county fair where some of the remarkable products of the soil may be exhibited. People by the scores have come to the Press office to see the big potato grown by Mrs. J. E. Calloway. A while back visitors from the lowlands could hardly believe their own eyes when they saw the display of big apples—one weighing 30 ounces—in the Press office window.

Now comes Mr. J. F. Palmer with a cluster of corn—nine ears on one stem. One ear is full-grown, four others about half the usual size, while still four others had quite a start when the frost put an end to the growth.

What Will Five Years Bring?

THERE can be little doubt that five years will see much more business in Franklin than is here now. Either as a result of the growth of the town or of a development of the tourist business, or of both, more business is coming and with it will come a traffic jam on Franklin's narrow Main street.

Like all problems, there is a solution for the traffic problem here, and the town, no doubt, will find the solution when the time comes that it must be solved.

But, if it sets out to solve the problem now, instead of waiting, it can save the taxpayers many thousands of dollars. For, after all is said and done, the fact remains that the simplest and most practical solution of the problem is to provide more space—to widen Main street. If we wait until we have to do it, it will mean thousands—probably hundreds of thousands—of dollars' expense. If we start out to do it now, gradually, in five or ten years it can become an accomplished fact with comparatively little expense.

Main street can be widened—say 20 feet—in this way. The town board can order all buildings constructed in the future set back 10 feet from the sidewalk. This might work a temporary hardship on a few, but it would be but a short time until the majority of the buildings on Main street would be set back.

In five or ten years the street could be widened 10 feet on each side by condemning 10 feet of LAND on either side, rather than 10 feet of land AND buildings. In other words, by such a course, the street in all probability could be widened within five or six years without the necessity of condemning more than half a dozen buildings. For surely the town will see many old buildings torn down and new ones erected in their place in the course of the next half decade.

This plan is not an idle theory. It is being put into practice in numbers of cities.

It could be put into effect in Franklin NOW, and save the town thousands. Every month of delay means added expense when the time comes that we are compelled to widen Main street; and each month's delay means postponing by that much longer the solution of a problem that is already serious.

A Duty and a Privilege

ALL those who feel it a duty and a privilege to manifest their appreciation of the blessings which the Giver of all good has vouchsafed unto them by helping their less fortunate brothers and sisters, ought to be interested in the appeal of the North Carolina Orphan Association relative to assisting in the maintenance of the twenty-three orphan homes located in various sections of the State.

Can you think of any human being more deserving of your attention during the Thanksgiving season, or at any other time, than the thousands of orphan children in our State who have no kinsfolk able and willing to care for them until they can manage for themselves?

Can you think of any cause that merits your charitable and monetary assistance more than these orphan homes which are attempting to care for, educate, and render self-supporting so many of the fatherless and motherless little ones picked up from the highways and byways of our State?

Remember that with all the plans, efforts,

and unceasing activities in behalf of these children, who are handicapped through no fault of their own, the institutions established for their benefit find themselves unable to care for hundreds who apply for protection because their financial resources will not permit them to accept them.

Make an offering on or near Thanksgiving Day direct to the orphanage of your choice, or through your lodge, church or Sunday school. Do it cheerfully, with the confident hope that you are helping reclaim helpless little boys and girls from lives of vagabonds, and training them for good citizenship.

To lead the county ticket is no little honor. This honor belongs to Macon county's efficient and popular clerk, F. I. Murray.

There is just one difference between the candidate and the pauper. "The poor ye have with ye always," the candidate, every two years.

To the average voter, it is simply a case of the election being over. But to the unsuccessful candidate, life—though not over—might as well be, he feels.

What happened to that story about the lumbermen destroying the park? Have they ceased their depredations? If so, isn't that a bigger story than the first?

Bill Cunningham says he saw a girl coming out of a beauty shop in Asheville a few days ago who looked as though she had not been waited on.

Others' Comments

THE UNAVOIDABLE SMITH

THE Democratic Party is now squarely faced by the Presidential candidacy of Governor Alfred Smith, of New York. There is no dodging or detouring it. Be he an asset or a liability of the party, Smith is now greatly more of one or the other than he was prior to Tuesday.

The result of the election has added vastly to Governor Smith's prestige and heavily increased his political power. No one can rightly doubt that his Presidential candidacy has received a powerful stimulus and that the country is deeply impressed by his winning of the New York Governorship for the fourth term. Success wins followers, and the election result undoubtedly added many thousands to the number who will support Smith, the proven success.

A strong contender, prior to Tuesday, Governor Smith is now the outstanding candidate for the supreme nomination—no one else even approaches him in prominence. Conditions may of course change and the Smith candidacy be hopelessly wrecked in the months to come, but if conditions in the summer of 1928 are as now, the Democratic party must either nominate Smith or deliberately reject him, not because it prefers another but because it does not want him.

This, we believe is a fair statement since it considers the unknown future in terms of the present, when, to use a homely expression, no specific rival stands knee-high to the persistently triumphant Smith. If so, the Democratic voters should now turn their attention, critical or approving, to him—he is no longer one of many "favorite sons" suggested for the highest post, but one who commands widespread national strength. The question faces the party, is Smith an asset or a liability?

If Smith be argued as an asset to the party, abundant evidence is adducible to prove this conclusion. Here is a man in the prime of life, clean personally, mentally well-balanced, an executive of admitted capability, it may be reasonably claimed, is so popular in his own pivotal State and others of Republican tendency that his nomination will assure a large number of electoral votes to his party.

But if it be argued that Smith is not an asset—that he could not be elected—his very strength makes him a liability so great as to plunge his party into political bankruptcy. If the party refuses him the nomination a great part of his great support will likely conclude that Smith was rejected because of his religion. Rightly or wrongly, many will so conclude, and in their anger and by way of rebuke will vote against the man who is nominated. They will not listen to any claim that the party rejected Smith because of his "wet" views or because he was an Easterner or for other reason however real it be.

The question is far more accentuated than it was in 1924. Then the convention issue was whether to nominate Smith or McAdoo—the matter was one of preference between two candidates. Now it is likely to be whether the party wants Smith or does not want him. From a purely political standpoint would or would not the National Democratic Party be better off if no Alfred Smith existed? Did the National party win or lose with his winning Tuesday?—Asheville Citizen.

SEVEN MISTAKES

THERE are seven mistakes of life that many of us make," said a famous writer, and then he gave the following list:

1. The delusion that individual advancement is made by crushing others down.
2. The tendency to worry about things that cannot be changed or corrected.

3. Insisting that a thing is impossible because we ourselves cannot accomplish it.

4. Refusing to set aside trivial preferences in order that important things may be accomplished.

5. Neglecting development and refinement of the mind by not acquiring the habit of reading.

6. Attempting to compel other persons to believe and live as we do.

7. The failure to establish the habit of saving money.—Morganton News-Herald

ENGLISH QUITS

FLIGHT is a confession of guilt. The public official who quits under fire in effect enters a plea of nolo contendere.

Such will be the popular reaction to Judge English's resignation. The Senate was to assemble next week in special session to try him on impeachment charges preferred by the House. He has elected for reasons best known to him to return his judicial commission to the President. He can't quarrel if the public insists upon placing the most natural interpretation on his resignation.

Perhaps this is the most satisfactory outcome of a case that gave promise of creating a real judicial scandal. The nation's judiciary should keep itself above reproach. It should avoid even the appearance of evil. If the English case had been prosecuted before the bar of the Senate, it might have led to disclosures that would have weakened popular faith in the fitness and disinterestedness of the judiciary. As it is, a man palpably disqualified for court responsibilities has eliminated himself in the most painless way.—Asheville Times.

Letters

ABSENTEE VOTER'S LAW—"MENE, MENE, TEKEL UPHARSIN"

Editor, The Franklin Press:

The Absentee Voters Law was enacted for the purpose of giving "our boys" in France a chance to vote while the World War was in progress. Its day of usefulness has passed.

The idea of letting our feeble citizens vote, as well as those who are called away from home on business, sounds good. But the law does NOT work well. It has caused members of each party to suspect members of the other party of stealing votes. Officers have been accused of securing their jobs through the votes of persons who were VERY absent—some of them in "the happy hunting ground." Now it may be true that two parties are needed, but surely the public interest demands that the feeling between the parties shall be as good as possible. A law that causes distrust and hatred has one strong point against it.

Another way in which this law is being abused is through folks staying away from the polls and sending in a vote when they are able to move about quite comfortably in other parts of the neighborhood. When someone does this he need not wonder if his neighbor thinks he has received cash for his vote. The absentee voter gives the voter-buyer his only chance, under the Australian system, to see if he is getting what he pays for.

It will rarely happen that a person who is not able to endure a short car ride to the polls will be able to use wisely the power to vote; and the person who is away from home is not usually in a place where he can get as clear an idea of home conditions as are the citizens who are in traveling distance of their precincts.

However, the big charge against the Absentee Voters Law is that it gives crooks of both parties a chance to carry on dishonest work. It ought to be clear that if the time comes when our officers are chosen by the party that is able to steal most efficiently, certainly "government of the people, by the people and for the people," shall have flickered out. If our liberties are ever taken away and we are not allowed to choose the men who shall carry on the public business, let the man who causes us such loss have to fight for what he gets and not have it given to him by a citizenship which is too flabby to guard its ballot boxes from whispering soundrels with sackfuls of absentee votes.

Nearly all of the best citizens in both parties favor the repeal of the absentee law. This fact needs to be expressed in some way that Mr. Solesbee can use when he goes down to Raleigh, for a majority of the legislators will be Democrats and they may think that the repeal of this law is only desired by Republicans. The best thing we can do, I think, is to circulate just as widely as possible, a great petition, asking for the repeal of the Absentee Voters Law—at least insofar as it applies to Macon county. It will be best for many persons who sign this petition to state after their names whether they are Democrats or Republicans. The repeal of this law is wanted not just by a party, but by the people. If we express our wishes on this subject so strongly that they can be known and felt at Raleigh when the General Assembly convenes, we shall get the thing we want, and we shall find how sweet it is for free men to rule themselves.

R. N. M.

Higdonville, N. C.
November 8, 1926.