

## The Franklin Press

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S. A. HARRIS.....Editor

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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### THE FRANKLIN PRESS PLATFORM

- A commercial hotel for Franklin.
- Extension of the sewer lines.
- Beautiful 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.
- 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?

Gene Tunney says if he ever marries he will quit fighting. That shows how little he knows about marriage.

Why is it that so many fathers around Franklin blame the cussedness of the younger generation on everything but heredity?

November is certainly the month of the axe. First the candidate gets it and then the turkey.

If Billy Sunday is looking for a real tough job, let him try putting on a revival at Heroin, Illinois.

A Franklin woman recently hit her finger with a hammer and said nothing but "Mersey." That must have been an awful strain.

Lee Barnard says that tooth they found in Montana, thought to be a million years old, was lost by some man while he was sitting around waiting for farm relief.

The simplest way to learn how to dance the Charleston is to catch the rich.

It takes 50 years to grow a decent forest, and then some man comes along with a match. In the last Macon county court such a match cost one man fifty dollars.

### County Agent's Salary and Work

ELSEWHERE on this page appears a letter from Mrs. F. E. Mashburn who asks some pertinent questions regarding the county agent and his work. Mrs. Mashburn refers to the report being circulated that the county agent charges a percent on the carloads of Guernseys he has brought to the county. This report is nothing more nor less than one of the underhanded methods his town opponents are taking to discredit Mr. Arrendale. The facts are as follows: Mr. Arrendale has gone into other States to purchase dairy cows to advance the cause of this industry in Macon county. These cows on arrival here are auctioned to the highest bidder. To the original cost of the cows are added the transportation charges, feed bill, etc. Should the car of cows bring more than the cows cost delivered at Franklin each buyer is refunded a proportionate part of his bid. Should the cows sell for less than it cost to deliver them here, each buyer is assessed a proportionate amount to cover the shipment.

The agent's salary is \$3500 per year, of which the county pays only \$1300 out of the general fund. Taking into consideration the amount of taxes collected for the general fund, Mr. Arrendale's salary per year cost each farmer only 20.7 cents on each thousand dollars worth of property. Hence, a farmer who pays taxes on \$1000 worth of property will pay the county the insignificant sum of 41.4 cents per year.

that amount? If the farmer has sold 8 pounds of chickens each year, yes. If the farmer has bought one sack of acid each year, yes.

But the reports are now going the rounds that the Farmers' Federation is saving the farmers much money on fertilizers and feed stuffs. True, but who established the Farmers' Federation? None other than the county agent, and, according to well authenticated reports, at least one man who is now drawing a salary from the Federation is moving heaven and earth to get rid of Mr. Arrendale.

Mr. Arrendale has brought four carloads of Guernsey cows into the county. He has placed pure-bred bulls in 23 communities. He has established a creamery at Franklin. He has organized poultry clubs and a bee keepers association. He has held innumerable meetings of farmers and supplied experts along all lines to address these meetings. The tax digest shows that the dairy cattle in the county are now listed at approximately three times the value of beef cattle. What was this percentage four years ago? Just the other way around.

At a conservative estimate he has placed in the pockets of the farmers in the last four years at least \$15,000 in co-operative poultry sales in excess of the amount they would have received under the old haphazard methods of selling. This year he has sold nine cars of poultry for \$23,400. Under this plan it is safe to assume that this poultry brought 20 percent more than it would have sold for before co-operative sales were started in this county. Hence, this year alone, Mr. Arrendale has made \$4,680 for the farmers on car lot poultry sales. This does not include shipments made by express. Mr. Arrendale has also conducted wool sales, and sales of other farm products at a great saving to the farmers.

And yet, unless the farmers of the county wake up and assert their rights, they will permit a few—a very few—men to persuade the county commissioners to let Mr. Arrendale's transfer go through. Next year, provided he remains here, Mr. Arrendale is planning to provide a feed-mixing plant for the farmers to save them approximately \$10 per ton on cow and chicken feed. He is likewise planning a cannery, a storage plant for sweet potatoes, and a fattening plant for chickens.

All of these plants are badly needed in Macon county.

We hear it said that another agent will be secured instead of Mr. Arrendale, provided the latter is transferred. District Agent Goodman says that the State and Federal appropriations go with the man. Consequently, if Mr. Arrendale is transferred, additional appropriations from the State and Federal governments would have to be made to pay the agent. There are many counties in the State now on the waiting list for county agents. If Macon county is foolish enough to permit the transfer of its county agent, the counties now on the waiting list would necessarily take precedence over Macon in the matter of a county agent. Even should another agent be sent here, he would require a year or more to familiarize himself with conditions in this county.

The editor is not personally interested in a county agent. Soon after Mr. Arrendale leaves we can buy chickens for our table 5 cents per pound cheaper than we can now, and so can others. However, we agree with Mrs. Mashburn, that the transfer of Mr. Arrendale would be nothing more nor less than a calamity to the farmers of the county. Transfer our present agent and the chances are that Macon county will be without a farm agent. This would please some of those who buy the produce of the farms. However, there are others who are perfectly willing to pay more for farm produce, since a prosperous farmer means a prosperous county.

The matter of a county agent is now strictly up to the farmers and they should not permit a few disgruntled ones to ruin the occupation of farming in this county.

### The Bond Issue

BELIEVING as we do, that sewers in all sections of the town are absolutely necessary if Franklin is to continue the growth that has so signally marked its progress during the past two years, we take this opportunity to urge the voters to go to the polls on December 6 and cast their ballots in favor of bonds. We are aware of the fact that the town is now heavily in debt, yet the most important factor necessary to a greater and better Franklin has been sadly neglected. We refer to the question of sewers. In this day of sanitation no considerable number of strangers will locate here unless a sewage

system extends to all parts of the town is provided for their convenience and health. We have such a system in the business section of town installed by a previous issue of bonds. This system accommodates very few residences, yet the entire population of the town pays interest on these bonds.

The people living in outlying sections of the town and in East Franklin are entitled to the benefits of sewers.

The town board has placed this matter squarely up to the voters, and after having done so, some members of the board, so we are reliably informed, are working against the issue of bonds. We confess our inability to understand their attitude. Politics is probably the answer, and, as all men know, politics includes many strange angles on all public questions. The question of politics no doubt influenced the paving of certain streets of the town. And we leave it to the public whether the paving of short sections of certain streets is more important than a sewer system for the entire town. The question of expense seems to have made no difference in the paving referred to, and now when the question of a bond issue comes up for an adequate sewer system, some members of the town board become exceedingly careful. Such care might well have been exercised some months ago before thousands of dollars were spent on paving that could have been left undone until a sewage system was installed. We have no criticism to offer on the paving that has been done. It was of benefit to the town. However, we cannot understand why certain members of the board should now become so penurious when a question of a sewage system is broached.

There is another phase of this matter that the public might do well to consider in casting their votes. The outcome of several damage suits against the town, now pending or to be instituted, will depend upon the question of a sewage disposal plant, the cost of which is included in the proposed bond issue. Without such a disposal plant the town will in all probability be called upon to pay damages as a result of unsanitary conditions reported to exist at the mouth of the present sewer. Why not install an adequate sewage system and disposal plant and thus avoid paying large sums as damages?

### Getting Down to Brass Tacks

DR. Furman Angel, after reading the editorial in last week's Press under the caption of "Go After Industries," dropped into the Press office last Saturday with an offer to donate \$500 in cash to pay the expenses of a committee of citizens to visit industrial centers with a view to interesting capital at Franklin, and to study the cost of manufacturing and marketing various products, such as furniture, handles, overalls, etc. The doctor placed no strings on his offer other than he be permitted to name one member of the committee of three, leaving the matter of naming the other two members to the editor of the Press. This kind of public spirit on the part of Dr. Angel is simply getting down to brass tacks. Writing letters is all right, but rarely does such method bring results. Personal contact is necessary to interest men in the industrial expansion of Franklin, and Dr. Angel is to be commended for making such contact possible.

### Let Us Be Decent

ON the night of November 19, two women and a man, giving their home as Asheville, were locked in the same cell in the Macon county jail. Officers state that the man and one of the women claimed to be man and wife. The next day this man and woman were bound over to Superior court on charges of immoral conduct alleged to have been committed the previous night in their cell at the jail. Later in the day the man was released on bond, while the women were kept in jail. The same day (Saturday) another Asheville man breezed into Franklin. He was promptly locked up on charges of driving an automobile without proper license. This man claimed the other woman as his wife, and was placed in the same cell with the two women. Evidence in court brought out the fact that all three occupied the same bed for a short time before being placed in separate cells.

The officers have been doing excellent work in apprehending whiskey runners and consequently deserve the thanks of the entire county. However, placing men and women together in the cells of the county jail does not show due regard for public opinion nor even for the common laws of decency.

### A Gigantic Merger

IT is reported from Chicago that the two biggest mail-order houses in the world—both located there—are soon to combine. To do so they must get the permission of the Government, but there is no question as to their ability to secure Uncle Sam's consent. It will mean less duplication of mail order soliciting, and millions of dollars will be saved in catalogues and postage.

It will not mean a lessening of competition for merchants in the smaller towns of the country, however. On the other hand, the chances are that the country will be still more thoroughly combed for orders.

Statistics show that in towns where mer-

chants use liberal advertising space in their home newspapers the mail order revenues are not as great as in communities where advertising is not used to offset catalogues. We offer this as a gentle hint to the man who has the mail order catalogue as his strongest competitor. Now that that competition promises to become stronger it might be a good idea to think it over.

### Who Runs the Government?

WE note that Wayne B. Wheeler has placed his stamp of approval on the Government's proposal to allow a private corporation to make and distribute liquor for medicinal purposes. Since when has it become necessary for the treasury department to get the approval of a private individual before submitting a bill to Congress? The truth of the matter is that Wheeler has about three-fourths of Congress and many other Government officials bluffed to the extent that they do not dare call their souls their own. The public might as well hand Wheeler a crown and give him the title of Wayne I.

### Others' Comments

#### HENRY DAVIS RETURNS FROM NORTH CAROLINA

HENRY T. Davis, who has been away for the past thirty days, visiting five sisters and old neighbors and friends at Franklin, North Carolina, returned home Tuesday. Mr. Davis brings back a very interesting account of his trip to the old home. He describes the great industrial development of the country. Every town has some kind of industry with a good pay roll, and times are prosperous with everybody. Aside from the low price of cotton, there is no other gloom over the State. His description of paved roads, which the State of North Carolina has been constructing, is far in advance of anything being done in Montana. He said the paved roads crisscrossed the country, connecting the rural communities with the national highways and the boulevards of the cities; that no part of the country was neglected, and everybody had good roads.

He said taxes were much lower there than here and from appearances there were fewer debts and mortgages.

With all the flowery report made by Mr. Davis, he has no idea of quitting his fine ranch and returning to his old North Carolina home. He did not bring back any "simmons," at least did not exhibit any.—Belgrade (Montana) Journal.

### Letters

Dear Mr. Editor:

Upon the arrival of County Agent Arrendale in Macon county the county stood far behind its standing of today. There was no poultry being shipped by carload lots from Macon county, and any man knows that a carload of poultry will bring more than only a local shipper can pay. And at that time there was no Farmers' Federation in Macon county, nor was there any creamery, nor any good grade milk cows. And today we have all these things, and all these good things are valuable that Mr. Arrendale has done. And as to his salary, he has not drawn 10 per cent of what he has been worth to Macon county, and I feel that it is the duty of every level-headed citizen to stand up for the keeping of Mr. Arrendale for our county agent, as the county needs him.

ALEX ANGEL.

Editor of Franklin Press:

You seem to be a fearless man who doesn't mind going to the bottom of a matter to get the truth. Now in regard to Mr. Arrendale, to my way of thinking there has never been a man in Macon county who has been so beneficial to the people's welfare as he. I can hardly bear to think of the condition the farmers' financial welfare will drop back into if he is permitted to go away.

Now some of the miserable things reported are: that he requires a small per cent when he buys cows, etc., besides his salary, which they say is \$3500 a year.

Does he collect this small percent? (I don't believe he does anything dishonest, and I want it proved to the public).

What is his salary a year? How much does the Federal government pay?

About how much of his salary would a man of \$1000 or \$2000 worth of property pay?

Then just figure out how much he has saved that individual farmer on fertilizers, cotton seed meal, lime, wool sales, chicken sales, and last but not least, by having a creamery established in Macon. All this and more he does for each individual farmer if that farmer will only co-operate.

How can Macon county "dirt" farmers sit idle and allow a few men who are looking out for only No. 1, to drive away their best helper?

Serch, N. C. Very truly yours,  
Nov. 21, 1926. MRS. F. E. MASHBURN