

(Continued from page five)  
 any of your plans for I concede your honesty of purpose in what you do and say.

However, as Mr. "A Subscriber" gave notice some time ago that there was going to be a general "kicking" take place in the county—such a kicking in the county as has not been neither shall be hereafter—such as would shake things loose and establish a new order of affairs in the county, if not a new regime—I suppose it will not throw you off your balance, if I happen to add my widow's mite of comfort to this timely expressed sentiment.

Rev. Mr. McCracken and John Ferguson have discussed the problems that confront the citizens of Macon county more ably than I shall attempt to do, but I feel sure they both wrote without seeing the financial statement of the county; for had Brother McCracken seen the many lines—and as I see it useless—disbursements voiced in that statement he would have found no difficulty whatever in determining what went with the remainder of his taxes after all worthy objects had been served.

I trust we shall hear from him again and again until all these matters have been made plain, so that the common citizen shall understand what goes with his taxes.

Good roads, good schools, new court

house and jail combined, and taxation are all problems for Macon county citizens to solve, and it would seem to hear expression of sentiment over the county, that they are about in the proper spirit to solve them.

They have wisely turned down the court house proposition and if I mistake not they have turned their back upon the bond issue of \$70,000 for a new jail.

I believe Macon county has as good a class of citizenship as any county in the state, and that means as good a class of citizenship as any other county or state, for that matter; but I do not recall any citizen in the county who lives in a \$70,000 mansion—in fact the best homes of the county have been built at figures away below even half of that sum—and the great bulk of the taxpayers live in very humble homes that do not run into the thousands even.

Then are we as the citizens of the good county of Macon going to enthrall ourselves to the extent of a \$70,000 bond issue, to place a few criminals and law violators in luxurious quarters?

Why, Mr. Editor, when a man places himself on record as a law violator, trying to tear down the fundamental principles on which our government is founded—trying to render peace and happiness insecure, and life and property uncertain—he does not deserve the best there is in life; and I submit that it is a false sense of county pride that forces the serious consideration of a \$200,000 bond issue for court house and jail, or a \$70,000 bond issue for jail alone, either to vie with our more wealthy neighbors, able to do big things, or to furnish a few criminals and law violators with quarters exceeding the homes of our best citizens.

With slight repairs, there is no good reason why the present court house, built in the days of moral honesty,—before graft and get-all-you-can-for-as-little-as-possible became the order—and before officials planned and schemed for higher salaries and fees, at the expense of a tax-burdened people—might not last for a half a century yet. And if it is very desirable to build a jail over the court house, the present walls are good and strong—sufficiently so to add an upstairs—there is the air and plenty of room—go to it, and let the criminals and law violators sit over justice; and

escape and take bail just as they have been doing.

A worthy official of Macon once said, "The people of Macon county will bear a great deal, if you will give them the privilege of grumbling once in a while."

Had he foreseen the burden of taxation that exists today when about

the sum total left to the people is the privilege of breathing the air and paying taxes, he certainly would have conceded the fact that the people under conditions that exist today have ample cause for expressing their protest—not to say indignation.

It does not take a prophet—not even the son of a prophet—to foresee that the people can no longer exist as a free people with taxes still climbing every day and year. Even the best farms in the county yield no income on the investment; and when one feels like he is being held-up every year and relieved of what change he has been able to gather by the practice of rigid economy, there is no encouragement to own anything.

All substantial governments rest on the consent of the governed, and while the people as a rule are willing to bear the just burdens of government economically administered, there is a spirit of rebellion against over-taxation without some compensation for what they are forced pay out.

When a free people are taxed beyond what is reasonable, right and just, a spirit of discontent and anarchy is engendered, lawlessness is encouraged, and a crime wave—such as we have today, when even the darkest crimes—black enough to stain the escutcheons of any nation savage or civilized—are committed—and what seems worse they are committed with more or less impunity.

Well, it is easy to condemn these things; but the question naturally arises, "Where is the remedy?"

It must lie in that time-honored principle of retrenchment and reform whether it is brought about by general "kicking" or through other sane methods of financial administration—pay as you go, and dispense with what you do not need.

I do not wish to affect the role of adviser to the people of Macon county, but the present rate of increase in the taxes in the county spells ruin and confiscation to the taxpayers of the county in the near future.

The thing that appeals to me at present—and what seems to me would afford a felt relief—is to get rid of these offices that are not needed, together with their expense; inaugurate a system of economy; quit trying to imitate our wealthy neighbors, and place the sheriff, the clerk of the court, and the register of deeds of

The financial statement shows the clerk of the court and the register of deeds each drawing about \$2,500 a year from the county treasury—what they do for the county to earn this amount I wot not,—as the people pay their fees for all they do for them.

Any way \$1,800 would be ample salary for each of them, for the work required at their hands.

On a salary basis, the sheriff's office should save \$3,000 a year of the amount he draws from the county—then the fees of all these offices could be turned into the county treasury, with this saving.

I am glad Mr. Editor, that we are agreed on some of these matters, and that you show a willingness to let the people of the county speak out their views, for in the multiplicity of

counsel there is safety.  
 Sincerely yours,  
 W. J. JENKINS.

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you have more than done, you have saved the county anywhere up to \$10,000 or \$15,000 a year. Then in addition to all this, there should be no issuing of bonds in the county—God only knows when we shall ever live over what has already been done—without consent of the people expressed at the ballot box.



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