

**The Franklin Press**  
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**THE FRANKLIN PRESS PLATFORM**

- 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.
- A fish ladder at the municipal dam.
- Co-operation, vim, push, work-everything for the good of Franklin and Macon county.
- New court house and jail combined.

**How About It?**

"It can't be done" is the refrain sung by the lazy ones.

That spring ought to be running through the house in pipes.

This nice spring weather makes one think of the necessity for a chamber of commerce, but thinking costs nothing.

and get more milk at less cost. Also eliminate nine-tenths of the sickness among your herd.

The 4-H club boys and girls will likely knock a lot of "bright" ideas out of the heads of some of us old timers.

Uncle Sam is going to need a new building here for a post office by July first. Who wants the contract?

One hundred and seventy-nine 4-H boys and girls growing chickens in Macon county ought to wake others up to the opportunities in the poultry business.

It is interesting to watch the candidates reduce taxes—before the election. After the election they are going to have a whale of a time explaining to the voters.

John Dills, on the Cullasaja, claims that he and fourteen others slept in the same bed on the coldest night of the present year when the thermometer stood at 8 below.

The 4-H club boys and girls are getting in their supply of baby chicks by mail. We presume that climatic conditions in Macon do not favor the operation of a 10,000 capacity incubator.

That's right. Go to it. Pay \$4.00 per hundred for chick feed when you can grow it at home and have it crushed for less than the freight on imported stuff, or for around 75 or 80 cents per hundred pounds.

A resolution has been introduced in the United States Senate calling upon Secretary of the Treasury Mellon to resign. He is the best secretary the treasury ever had and is too big a man to pay any attention to a resolution introduced because of personal spite.

John Dills is not worrying about that "grip" some of his neighbors stated that he had lost. John just simply cannot supply the demand for "furrin" pigs. An object lesson like the one John has put over helps wonderfully. But then John tends to his pigs and lets the other fellow do the fox huntin'.

Flatten out the food containers, known as tin cans, that are opened each year in Macon county and there would be enough tin to put a roof over Pike's Peak from top to bottom every twelve months. Now that the farmers have a cannery of their own it is up to all of us to grow produce for the cannery and to buy our own canned goods.

Those going into the chicken business need not expect success when they pay \$4.00 per hundred for chick feed. You can grow exactly the same ingredients here in Macon county and have the same crushed for less than the freight would cost to bring it in. All

this not about imported laying mash, chick feed, etc., is nothing but buncombe.

We do not know what Dr. Rouse paid for the Lake Emory holdings, but it is a safe bet that he got this property at a bargain. With the establishment of the Smoky Mountain National Park assured and with Franklin's airport ready for daylight landings, the doctor and his associates should make a mint of money on the best development proposition in Western North Carolina.

One hundred and seventy-nine 4-H club boys and girls growing poultry with an average of 100 birds each means a lot to the county. Still there is one politician, in particular, who is rearing to put these boys and girls out of business along with 258 others who are trying to make a little money to brighten an otherwise dreary existence. The politician who will dare to stick a knife in the backs of the boys and girls of Macon will hear from the people in no uncertain terms.

Among the counties of North Carolina Macon stands fourth in the number of cows according to the population. Alleghany heads the list with one cow for each two persons, Ashe comes second and Watauga third. Macon has one cow for every 3.3 persons. Dare county is at the bottom of the list with one cow for every 94.7 persons. We do not know what the babies in Dare do for a living. When Macon county has 3.3 cows for each person—then the citizens will really begin to prosper.

Friday of last week the county agent was notified by the T. F. Railway officials that it would not be possible to have a poultry car here on the 26th. Mr. Harris immediately got busy with the wires and within two or three hours had assurance that a poultry car would be here on Monday even if it became necessary to use a special engine to bring it to Franklin. Macon county is fortunate in having a county agent who can do things. Under similar circumstances many agents would have thrown up their hands and called off the poultry sale.

The town board, so we understand, is considering the advisability of boring another well to augment the water supply of the town

for this purpose. The board has tried hard enough to get an adequate water supply for the town but has been balked by the people on every hand. Surely the voters will authorize ten or twelve thousand dollars for this purpose now. Otherwise the town will barely have sufficient drinking water during the coming summer. With no water in the tanks the town is doomed in the event of a bad fire.

Wagons, trucks and other vehicles brought poultry to the sale Monday. In fact there were hundreds of people in town from the farms. While the merchants did a good business most of the money realized from the sale of chickens was stored away as part payment of taxes that come due May first. There will be two more poultry sales before that time and in most cases the people will have realized enough money from the sale of poultry to pay their taxes. One county in California has an annual income of \$13,000,000 from poultry and eggs. When the people of Macon realize that they can make more money on chickens and eggs than they can make growing corn and wheat, then money will be plentiful and there will be no worries about taxes. This county should have an income from poultry products of more than a million dollars per year, but of course such a proposition would uproot the whole scheme of things and reflect upon granddaddy's ability as a money maker. So let's stick to corn and wheat even if we do have to rustle like the mischief to get tax money.

**Clean-Up Week**

**N**EXT WEEK has been declared "Clean-Up Week" by the city fathers. A truck will be placed at the disposal of the public for carting away all trash that has accumulated during the winter. The chief of police is particularly interested in having all vacant lots and back yards in good condition. The truck will be busy all week on this work. Now that the town board has done its part toward a clean town the citizens should at least co-operate to the extent of placing trash in places convenient to the truck. A little effort and forethought on the part of the citizens should result in making Franklin the cleanest town in the state. Summer visitors judge a town by its appearance. If the town can win favorable comment from the tourists, both they and their friends will return again and again to enjoy our delightful climate. There are too many clean towns these days for a tourist to spend his time in a filthy place. Provided the citizens will clean up the town there will be hundreds of visitors here this summer who will make Franklin their headquarters while visiting the Smoky Mountain National Park and other places of interest.

**A Hopeful Outlook**

**W**HEN THE young people of a county become intensely interested in better

methods of farming, better livestock and better poultry, and when these youngsters have a leader who is filled with energy and who is equally interested in the success of the boys and girls, there is hope for such a county along the lines mentioned. Today we find Macon an outstanding example of a county where the boys and girls have been aroused by the county agent to the importance of mixing brain work with labor in their efforts to make the farm a paying proposition and an attractive place on which to live. Heretofore the youth of the county have drifted along in the footsteps of their parents in matters pertaining to farming methods. If the parents were successful, then so were the children, and vice versa. The parents in many cases have recognized this fact and are anxious that their offspring practice improved methods in farming and in stock and poultry growing. Thus we find that 437 boys and girls in the county, backed to the limit by their parents, have joined the 4-H club. These youngsters have entered into their work with an enthusiasm that is remarkable. Day after day, under the able leadership of the county agent, others are joining the club, and day after day their enthusiasm becomes greater. It is hardly possible to predict the effect upon the county that is destined to result from the work of the 4-H club boys and girls. They have chosen many lines of work and the knowledge gained by each will be passed on to the others. One hundred and seventy-nine have entered the poultry business, 74 will have better gardens, 62 will fatten pigs by the extension method, 45 will breed better pigs, 26 are destined to raise better potatoes, 24 will show dad how to grow corn, 14 will beautify their respective homes with a variety of flowers, nine will grow dairy calves and the same number beef calves, 7 have gone in for sheep while four are destined to be stung by bees, 2 will try to grow better turkeys than Mrs. Elliott and one will grow all the peanuts he can eat and have bushels left to sell. Thus the good work is started and the politician who tries to stop it is destined to go office hungry.

**What's the Matter With Macon?**

**W**HAT'S the matter with Macon—and for that matter many other counties in the state—from an agricultural viewpoint? Well,

It is conservatively estimated that Macon county sends to outside sources each year approximately \$300,000 for farm products that could be grown right here in the county, or that would not be needed under proper management. A considerable portion of this amount is spent for fertilizer, nine-tenths of which would not be needed provided proper methods in soil building were practiced. About \$50,000 goes out for pork products. It's a sad commentary that this county with the best natural conditions in the state for hog-raising finds it necessary to send \$50,000 out of the county each year for side meat, lard, etc. Seventy-five thousand dollars go out for flour and other wheat products. The broad valleys of Macon could grow all the wheat necessary for home consumption on half the ground now planted to this cereal provided the soil was properly built up and prepared. The people of Macon live out of tin cans to the extent of \$25,000 per year, all purchased outside the county. Now that the farmers have a cannery of their own, it is expected that this expenditure can be avoided this year. Western apples are shipped into the county and sell for 5 and 10 cents each, yet Macon county is one of the finest apple-growing sections in the United States. The apples grown here taste like apples and not like balls of sawdust. But mighty few of the farmers spray their trees and grade their apples and no concerted effort is made to market co-operatively. Cabbage, lettuce, Irish potatoes and scores of other farm products, grown in other counties and in other states, find a ready market at Franklin. Thousands of dollars go out of the county each year for baby chicks. Incubators evidently will not work in Macon county. Still more dollars go out for cattle and pigs, but this is necessary to get a start in thoroughbred livestock. Thus the cash in an endless stream finds its way to the outside while we of the mountains sleep and dream of the good old days when granddad and grandmother lived at home.

Shut off communications with the outside world and two-thirds of the population of Macon county would starve to death in six months—and this is primarily an agricultural county. Excepting for such articles as wearing apparel, sugar, salt, coffee and soap Macon has no need to send money out of the county. The forest products are probably maintaining a balance now, in favor of the county, but when these are exhausted within a short time the cat will begin to squall, unless in the meantime the people have learned to live at home and board at the same place. When Macon county has a trade balance in farm products of \$1,000,000 per year in its favor all this howl about high taxes will become a thing of the past. There is nothing impossible about such a balance.

**About Nantahala Township**

**T**HE PEOPLE over Nantahala way are putting up a mighty chorus in favor of an

nexation to Cherokee county provided we judge by the letters received from that community and published in The Press. Their principal complaint seems to be that the county officials have neglected them in the matter of roads. Suppose we look into this a little bit. Isn't it true that the county commissioners spent several thousand dollars in co-operation with the forest service in building a road from Aquone to Nantahala station? Isn't it true that the commissioners had a special bill passed through the legislature permitting Macon county to build a bridge in Swain county across the Nantahala at Nantahala station to give the good people of that township an outlet to No. 10? Isn't it true that Macon county has spent more money on the roads of Nantahala township than on the roads in any other township of the county with the exception of two or three traversed by the highways? Who builds the roads in this county—the townships or the county? Everybody knows that under the present law the townships are responsible for their own roads. No doubt this is a bad system and the law should be changed by making the county the road unit, but until that is done no township is justified in blaming the county for lack of roads.

Now let us look into the tax situation over in Nantahala township. In round numbers the township pays into the county treasury approximately \$20,000 per year in taxes. Of this amount the railroad, lumber and power companies—all absentee owners—pay about \$13,000, the remainder being paid by the residents there. Macon county pays back into the township for schools alone \$4,920 per year. So the people in that township are not treated so badly after all in the matter of taxes.

But it is not our intention to blame the good folks of Nantahala for wanting an outlet to their county seat. Neither can they be blamed for wanting to be annexed to another county, provided such annexation will result in a hardsurfaced road. We have been told by a citizen of Andrews that the tax rate in Cherokee is \$2.70 per hundred as compared to \$1.58 in Macon. If this is true, then the citizens of Nantahala township have something to think about. Possibly a hardsurfaced road would be worth the increase in taxes. Regardless of everything the fact remains that Nantahala township has no suitable road, but there are other townships in the county in a similar fix. The Nantahala range is a natural

Nantahala township. Macon county must recognize this fact and do all within its power to build a road to that township when the law is changed putting this responsibility upon the county. With a good road from Franklin to their homes we are convinced that the people across the mountains would wish to remain a part of Macon county. Within a few years this section of the county will be worth a king's ransom and it therefore behooves the people of Macon to remain on good terms with the fine citizens of Nantahala township.

**Others' Comments**

**THE VALUE OF SCENERY**

**T**HE PROPOSITION of Commissioner Stikeleather to make slight detour in highway No. 28, so as to carry tourists through the magnificent scenery in mountains, valleys, waterfalls and gorges along the way, is one that will no doubt meet with the approval of the State Commission. Our own people, largely because they are not familiar with the scenery in sections heretofore reached by highways, are rather unappreciative of what this routing of No. 28 would mean, from the financial standpoint, to the state, for it would open a new attraction for tourists and one that would make popular appeal to motorists the country over. The Observer has made the proposition that the extra cost would be covered in one season of auto travel over the route. Development of scenic effects is one that has popularized Western sections. The Canadian Government has proved more alert than our own Government to this scenic development. It not only routed its main railroads and highways so as to carry travelers through the best of its mountain scenery, but is now building detours in order that the automobile world can get into sections not reached by the railroads.

Of course the state could count on the co-operation of the Southern Railway company in the broadening program before it. Until all the mountains were opened by highways, the Southern necessarily confined its publicity activities to Asheville and the immediate region, but the arterializing of the "Yellowstone and Yosemite" regions of the state through good roads, has enlarged the opportunities of that company. It can take advantage of scenic values in the same way the Canadian Pacific has done and is doing. The Southern's line to Murphy skirts the Smoky Mountains National Park, which has been described as the Yellowstone of the East, while one of its branch lines comes up from Georgia into Franklin, the gateway to the Yosemite; so, whether the Southern is inclined to renewed activities, it is bound to benefit by the penetration of these new highways.—Charlotte Observer.