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S. A. HARRIS.....Editor

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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?

Styles call for longer skirts for women. We never did believe in following styles too closely.

If each newspaper and magazine contained a cross word puzzle Dr. Lyle and Major Harris would go broke buying publications.

The people of Bryson City will just love Al if he treats them as nicely as did Will Rogers.

Josiah's just played heck in Franklin and also won some votes should he decide to run agin' Max.

Read the letter in this issue from D. J. Moses. He gives the public something to think about.

Old King Frost got in his bad work here Monday. However, spring appears to have come at last.

One cow to every 3.3 persons in Macon is a pretty good record. But let's reverse it and have 3.3 cows to each person.

The only farmers in Macon county who are opposing the county agent are those who believe a silo is some kind of a musical instrument.

Go on! Vote men into office who will discharge the county agent. Then buy a patent kicking machine for use during the next two years.

While Governor Smith has expressed no intention of visiting Franklin, yet he is seriously interfering with domestic happiness in this town. Ma and pa just can't agree.

The local forestry officials deserve commendation for permitting the public the free use of government telephones when conversing with the county agent on official business.

"It's mighty hard to raise tax money" is the cry. Yet a book peddler can come to town on court week and carry away two or three thousand dollars.

Court Officer L. F. Setser states that Judge Cameron MacRae is speeding up court procedure here to a greater extent than any judge in the past 18 years.

Fire the county agent and in all probability the creamery will go out of business. Then what's to become of those who have invested heavily in dairy cows and equipment?

Do you realize that this county spends about \$50,000 per year for tobacco that could be grown right here at home? Personally we prefer the old twists to Brown Mule or any other kind.

The Jackson County Journal says that Al is going fishing in Canada. We had no idea that the Journal would expose Al in this manner. But perhaps the Journal was referring to Canada township in Jackson county.

The Tellico correspondent states that "John Cabé reports he ploughed up an Indian grave and his bones and artillery was there." It is to be regretted that the correspondent was not more specific about the "artillery."

Macon county appreciates the kind remarks of Judge Cameron MacRae relative to the high class of citizenship found here. Another source of satisfaction is the fact that the judge did not overstate the matter.

Felix Alley, the original Al Smith man in Western North Carolina, is a visitor here this week attending court. Felix appears to be feeling "fine, just fine" as Bob Davis would say.

Instead of a four-months school term for Macon why not abolish the educational system of the county entirely? Leave it to the two-by-four politicians and twenty years from now fifty per cent of the adults of the county would be unable to read and write.

Not many years ago, before Uncle Sam bought forest lands in Macon county, the Little Tennessee, we are told, got out of banks every time the thunder rolled. With the forests about its headwaters under government protection the river has not been out of banks in five or six years. And yet we find a man now and then who insists that burning the forests helps in many respects.

In all probability the next legislature will pass a law making the county of Macon the road unit instead of the townships as at present. If this is done and if the people elect unprogressive men as county commissioners, the completion of No. 28 in the county is a dead issue. In fact all county roads will be neglected to the extent that they will not be passable at any time of the year.

The progressive citizens of Highlands headed by Dr. E. R. Gilbert and W. M. Cleaveland are building a rearing pool for trout of sufficient capacity to accommodate 100,000 fish. This pool will be ready for use in about one week. Mr. Cleaveland deeded the land on which the pool is built to the department of conservation and development while the town board gave the lumber used in the construction. Highlands does things on a big scale.

During the five months from November 1st to March 1st the creamery paid Macon county farmers \$8,704.56. It must be remembered that these months are the most unfavorable in the year for the production of butter fat. The

was \$20,500.89. Prohibited nothing interferes with the production of cream in Macon county the end of the next three years should see the farmers of Macon receiving \$25,000 per month for this commodity.

Put to a vote of the county we believe that 90 per cent of the people would be in favor of the retention of a county agent. However, there is this danger: The people in their eagerness to cut expenses to the bone will probably cut their own throats by putting men into office who will fire the agent along with some other office holders. Remember that it is possible to vote into office men who will cut off every useless expenditure, but retain the county agent. It matters not whether these men be Republicans or Democrats. In fact political parties should play no part when it comes to a question of retaining the county agent. He serves neither party but all the people.

The Press, after mature thought, has suppressed the reply of Mr. Sam Angel to Mr. Howell. It appeared to us that both were becoming too personal and we feared that the correspondence might result in some bad ending. While The Press wishes to give each man an opportunity to reply to what he may consider unjust communications, still there must be a stopping point somewhere. We are not inclined to favor either Mr. Howell or Mr. Angel. It just happens that Mr. Howell had the last "whack" at the matter and here the controversy ends in so far as The Press is concerned. We are quite sure that both Mr. Angel and Mr. Howell will agree that it is just as well to let the matter rest.

Barnum Was Right

FOR THE past several months the people of Macon have been howling about hard times and taxes. To hear this medley of the hoi poi-oi one would be lead to believe that money in Macon county is conspicuous by its absence. However, such is not the case. Recently came court week and with it the peddlers. One sold this and t'other sold that. And both raked in the money that the public could not possibly raise for taxes. One man who sold razors, rings, watches and such junk was pocketing the coin during the time we observed him at the rate of \$3.50 per minute, or around \$200 per hour. Yea! Verily! Barnum was right.

Judging by the harvest of the peddlers there is plenty of money in Macon county and it seems to be time for the hardluck chorus to sign off.

A Suggested Program

HOWS THIS for a program? Place all county officers on a salary basis, create the office of tax collector and combine it with that of county auditor, make the county the road unit and designate the county manager as

supervisor of roads in addition to his other duties. In our opinion this would reduce the expenses of the county by several thousand dollars annually and give the county a much better administration, particularly as concerns roads—probably the most important matter in the county that needs immediate attention. Under the present antiquated laws applying in county administration it is hopeless to think of reducing taxes, regardless of the men who may be elected next fall. The league of women voters might do well to give the matters herein suggested some thought, provided it has not already done so. Make these changes and we grant you that it may be possible to reduce taxes.

An Important Meeting

THE COUNTY agent has sent invitations to about fifty representative farmers in the county to meet with him at Franklin the first Monday in May at 11:30 a. m., to discuss plans for the future agricultural development of the county. Mr. Harris believes that a meeting of this kind will "go a long way toward harmonizing a lot of existing apparent irregularities." The meeting will be entirely informal and no man will be called upon to pledge himself to any particular scheme. The only objective sought is the betterment of agricultural conditions in Macon county and each man present will be given an opportunity to express his views. There may be some who think that the work of the county agent should be conducted along somewhat different lines than at present pursued. If so, such men can suggest such changes as they may believe advisable. This meeting appears to us to be an excellent opportunity for the farmers to get down to brass tacks and settle any questions concerning which there may be doubt. A few here and yonder are prone to criticize without offering a constructive remedy. As a general rule criticism without a suggested remedy is merely destructive and accomplishes nothing. It is suggested that all those who received invitations come to Franklin on the date mentioned with a view to aiding in helping along the good work and to discuss matters of vital importance to the rural population of the county.

In a year like this there will be national, state and county questions to discuss. Hence the meeting should be of great interest.

An Editorial for Next Year

BE IT REMEMBERED that this is the good year of 1929 and the month of March. The elections have been over for sometime and the people are just now beginning to cuss. In their unreasonable desire to cut down expenses the people voted into office men who promised to cut the taxes in half. The taxes have not been lowered and the voters are demanding of the county commissioners an explanation. The county agent has been discharged and the cannery which had such a successful season last year has closed its doors permanently. The creamery is tottering on the brink of disaster and is expected to go out of business in a few weeks. The 4-H club boys and girls who made more than \$5,000 last year under the leadership of the county agent have disbanded. Poultry sales have stopped and peddlers are again swarming over the county buying poultry at about half the market price. Fertilizer prices have soared to such an extent the farmers are in despair. The value of farm lands has tumbled until now nine-tenths of the farms in the county are assessed for taxes at more than their market value. However, the people have no one to blame but themselves. The Press warned them last year that such would be the case, but this warning was unheeded. All of which reminds us of a story told at a gathering here sometime ago. A little boy who lives up on Cartoogechaye was out at the woodpile where his daddy was cutting wood. "Pa," said the boy, "I just saw a wild cat go into the house where ma is." "Well," said Pa, "I can't help it. That wild cat will just have to get out the best way it can." Now the farmers of Macon county, due to the election of reactionaries and false prophets, are in for two years of disaster and they will just have to get out the best way they can.

Others' Comments

MacRAE PRAISES MACON CITIZENSHIP
SOMETIMES it must seem to citizens of Macon county and to other people that Macon is much in the headlines with stories of rumrunners or other violators of the law. Opening court yesterday in Franklin, Judge Cameron F. MacRae took warranted occasion to defend the Macon citizenship against such reflections upon it.

Most of the criminal cases in Macon Superior court, Judge MacRae said, are concerned with transients or persons who have come into the community from other counties.

This is notably true with regard to violations of the prohibition law. Macon with its new highway between Asheville and Atlanta is a sort of line of communication to sources of alcoholic supply. No small amount of the activity of the law-officers in Macon is absorbed in the pursuit of rum-running automobiles en

route from North Georgia to Asheville. Macon was for many decades isolated from easy contact with the rest of the state. The highway movement broke down the walls of that separation. Inevitably the change brought with it new problems of lawlessness for a people whose traditions are strong in devotion to peace and order.—Asheville Times.

Letters

HITS NAIL ON HEAD

Dear Editor:
A blow at education, an editorial of The Press of April 12, made me think that "A Daniel had come to judgment" on tax reform. The trouble with it is that not one person in a thousand would want such a change if it were possible for the county commissioners to make it.

The taxes of the county have about reached the limit for most people as there are but four counties in the state with a less per capita wealth than Macon, while we are near the top in per capita indebtedness.

Still I cannot believe there are many persons in the county that would be willing to give up our good roads and schools and go back to the old system in order to lower their taxes.

And as for giving up the county agent, makes me think of when the iron bridge was built across the Tennessee river at Franklin. One man was talking how it would raise the taxes. Another man that was standing by asked him how much his taxes were. The kicker told him. He figured—how much bridge tax the other was paying and it was only 13 cents per year. The ones who object to having a county agent would not know the difference in their taxes if we had no agent. While the profit on a few hens above what we would get for them if we had no agent would pay the extra tax, to keep him, for most of us, I cannot see how the taxes can be lowered very much. But we want commissioners that realize our inability to pay much more till some of our indebtedness is paid off.

Yours for no extremes either way on taxation,
D. J. MOSES.

Highlands, N. C., April 14, 1928.

To the Editor,

Dear Sir:

Will you please answer this question: Why are Clear Creek and Horse Cove school districts not to sign a petition asking for an election on school consolidation? This question effects them—or will in two years.

Does the school board fix tax districts as well as school districts?

Many of your readers in this township request an answer to this in your next issue.

Thanking you for your valuable assistance and for giving this space.
Very truly,
MISS CHARLOTTE B. ELLIOTT.

We presume that this communication has reference to the proposed consolidation of certain school districts in Highlands township with the school at Highlands. If so, we understand that it would not be possible to transport the children of Horse Cove to Highlands even should that district vote for consolidation. We also understand that Clear Creek school district already has a special school tax and that this district has just finished a new school house. It is therefore presumed that Clear Creek would not at present care to join in the consolidation. However, should this district wish to join in the movement for consolidation there would probably be no objections on the part of the county school officials. The county school board fixes the school districts. We do not understand what is meant by a tax district. We have answered Miss Elliott's questions to the best of our ability. If the answers are not satisfactory, it is suggested that she take the matter up with the proper school officials.

Cripple Creek, Colo., April 9, 1928.

Editor of The Franklin Press:

I am enclosing a clipping from the Denver post which I think may be of interest to some of your readers.

We "Tar Heels" enjoy reading The Press every week. We are always interested to learn of the progress which is being made in our home town and county.

Will Rogers says the whole South is "stepping" and, of course, it is gratifying to us to know that our own native state and county is keeping step with the rest. This spirit of progress, we are pleased to note, does not appear to be a spirit of greed and selfishness, but a desire for the betterment of everybody.

You seem to have the right system: building good roads, better schools and churches, and raising better crops means that every citizen will be benefitted more or less, even though taxes are a little bit higher.

That their worthy enterprises may all be crowned with success is my sincere wish for the good people of old Macon. This includes the county paper, which is playing a large part in the development and up-building of county and town.

Yours truly,
MRS. ROY THOMPSON.