

The Franklin Press

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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THE FRANKLIN PRESS PLATFORM

- 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. 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?

Those desiring a quick trip to China may drive into the daddy mud hole down at the station.

The public is greatly pleased with the quick dispatch of court business and the high sense of justice manifested by Judge Moore.

Read the contract between the town and Mr. Mead. It appears to us to protect the town thoroughly.

"It won't be long now" until busy wheels spin round and smiles take the place of sour looks.

It is not often that a small town like Franklin gets within smelling distance of millions, but unless all sign fail, this town will soon be rubbing shoulders with the toad skins.

Three members of the town board that sold the power plant were members of the board that built the plant. They were thoroughly justified in both instances.

The rural teachers, so we understand, are acting as 4-H club leaders. They do this cheerfully and thus show a mighty fine spirit of co-operation.

When the sale of the power plant is confirmed by the voters we believe that the farmers who want electricity on their farms will have no difficulty in getting it.

Aside from the benefits expected to accrue from the sale of the power-dam it now appears that a big real-estate development is in the offing.

Locate one industry here and another comes almost automatically. Soon the community will probably need more power than the present plant can develop.

In our opinion the town board has made no mistake in agreeing to sell the power plant to Mr. Mead. When his present plans are carried out the town will realize that a new era of prosperity for this community has arrived.

Since learning of the virtual sale of the municipal power plant, at least fifty farmers have been to the county agent's office to learn what farm machinery can be run by electric power.

Now watch the town grow. For several months The Press has advocated selling the power plant. Now that this is an accomplished fact this paper is extremely gratified at the part it has taken toward this end.

Mrs. Mollie Angel who lives just east of Franklin, has some of the best peaches seen in Franklin this season. These peaches weigh more than half a pound each. So Macon county must be somewhat of a peach county after all.

To carry the election in favor of selling power plant a majority of the qualified voters is necessary. Such being the case a new registration should be made as many now carried on the list have moved away. We believe also that the county should have a new registration.

Probably 99 per cent of the voters are in favor of confirming the action of the town board in selling the power plant. The trouble, if any, will be in getting a majority of the qualified voters out to the polls. But it is either come out or continue to dig down. The citizens can take their choice.

A carload of lumber recently shipped to Johnson City netted the shippers slightly over thirteen dollars per thousand. This lumber was suitable for making a good grade of flooring worth at Franklin \$55 or \$60 per thousand. This shows the necessity for a planing mill at Franklin.

It's the same old thing each court week—fakers selling worthless articles to the suckers on the public square. "A fine fountain pen for the insignificant sum of fifty cents." And the faker was raking in the coin at the rate of about fifty dollars per hour. No wonder tax money is hard to get.

In so far as the extension service is concerned Macon county is making one of the best records in the state, but if this county expects to get any publicity from the extension highbrows down at Raleigh, it will have to move down among some of the pet counties in the eastern part of the state.

Judge Moore was emphatic in his remarks about making the highways safe for the traveling public. We hope that the officers of the county will take to heart these remarks of the Judge. In this connection it has been reported that some hotel lobbies in Georgia contain posters advising tourists to stay away from Franklin.

At the chicken sale Monday and Tuesday 3600 pounds of poultry brought \$828.00. At the car door some of the farmers sold their poultry to peddlers. Sooner or later this will result in no more co-operative sales and then the peddlers can buy poultry for half price. It sometimes seems useless to try to help the farmers.

The town has called an election for September 25th to vote for approval or disapproval of the sale of the power plant. A majority of the qualified voters and not a majority of those voting will determine the sale. We believe that the people are overwhelmingly in

favor of the sale. If so, they must turn out and vote. Otherwise Franklin will continue to own the plant.

We understand that someone has dumped a lot of cans containing spoiled blackberries near the spring on the camp site. This has ruined the place for camping purposes and one or two parties of campers have already left Franklin and gone to other places to pitch their tents. The person responsible for putting these cans on Franklin's only camp site should be required to remove them at once.

This county will never prosper as it should as long as Democrats and Republicans, as such, strive for office. It is a bitter pill for a self respecting man to play the political game in order to be elected. Some, of course, do so, but under present conditions there are many able men in the county who refuse to sacrifice their honor by entering a political scramble for office.

Judge Moore hit the nail on the head when he advised the farmers of the county to quit sending money out of the county for bacon, hay, flour and meal. Probably the judge did not know that as much as \$400,000 or \$500,000 is sent out of the county each year for products that can be grown here. The value of Macon crops is less than \$500,000 each year. Just keep this up for a few years longer and the county home of which Judge Moore spoke will have to be enlarged.

Do not forget the Dairy Picnic at the creamery on August 30th. This will be a great day for Macon county. In the near future The Press hopes to make announcements of other good things for the farmers of the county, among them electrification of the rural homes. Still and all, it would not seem just right to have lights in the home while the good lady of the house continues to tote that cold spring water. So electric lights will just about force The Old Man to pipe that water to the home and barn.

Macon county is ideal for raising sheep. Those who have sheep had better increase their flocks. The Press hopes to have an interesting announcement for sheep raisers in the near future. However, dogs and sheep do not go well together. It is against the law for dogs to run at large at night, but no attention is paid this law in Macon county. The next legislature should be asked to pass a law permitting any citizen to kill a dog found running loose at night in this county. With such a law on the statute books more people will raise sheep.

The daddy mud hole down at the station evidently didn't suit the authorities—it was not half big enough nor half deep enough. Consequently someone with a bright idea filled said hole with red clay. Then came the rains

and the usual traffic, and now Franklin can boast of the biggest and handsomest mud hole in the entire Southland. In fact this mud hole may be considered another "First" for North Carolina. Franklin can also lay claim to the honor of being the first town in the state to use red clay as a substitute for rock in repairing bad places in the streets.

The county now receives \$45,000 per year from the state equalization fund. If we have been correctly informed the treasurer of the county receives 2 per cent for paying out this money. Under the law we presume that he is entitled to this percentage, but just why should an official, even though the law says he may, deprive the school children of Macon county of \$900 per year? The fee system pre-supposed that the paying official had the trouble and expense of collecting the money, but the treasurer is put to no expense in collecting the equalization fund and therefore should have no commission for disbursing the fund. The candidate for sheriff who will pledge himself not to accept a commission for disbursing the equalization fund will win many votes in this county. If no candidate will so pledge himself, then the voters should find a man who will. Even with this amount deducted the commissions of the sheriff will probably amount to more than \$6500 per year which is salary enough for any county officer.

Some months ago an announcement appeared in this paper to the effect that land would be sold for unpaid taxes on a certain date. This was not done. A short time later a similar announcement appeared but no action was taken. On the appearance of the first announcement a man living in Smith's Bridge township, evidently assuming that the announcement meant what it said, sold all his corn, so we are told, at one dollar per bushel to raise tax money. Sometime later this corn was worth around two dollars per bushel. In effect this man was doubled taxed. Indiscriminate announcements concerning the sale of land for taxes should not be made. The law should be followed to the letter and all tax payers should be treated alike. Forcing an honest man to sell his produce at a low price is not calculated to leave a good impression, unless all other delinquent tax payers are forced to do the same. In other words the collection of taxes should not be made a part of the political game.

Industries

IT IS CLAIMED, and perhaps rightly, by many that industrial plants do not like to locate on branch railroads and that, consequently, Franklin can never hope to amount to much from an industrial viewpoint. This will no doubt hold true where it is necessary to ship in the raw material and to ship out the manufactured product. However, industries will locate where the raw material is at hand. Such being the case there is no reason to suppose that wood working manufacturing plants will not be glad to locate at Franklin. The electric power is here. The climate is ideal. Shipping facilities are ample. Labor conditions are excellent. Sites for plants can be had at reasonable prices. There are good schools and good churches and fine hospitals. Within easy reach of Franklin there are available each year for an indefinite length of time more than three million board feet of lumber. So wood working plants will find Franklin an ideal location. This county also has inexhaustible supplies of Kaolin, mica and asbestos.

Preserving Gifts

WHEN ONE receives a gift of any kind from a friend the recipient generally takes steps to care for the gift or to use it wisely at least. In every home in the county one can find articles that were received as gifts years ago. Even useless things received in this way are treasured as mementos. Articles given by one person to another are always considered valuable in one way or another. But the gifts bestowed by Nature are considered in a different light. Man seems to take a peculiar delight in destroying such gifts. In Macon county, for instance, Nature clothed the mountains in forests which man has ruthlessly destroyed. Nature placed in the soil of this county almost every element necessary for man's existence, but man in his folly or in his ignorance, has worn out the soil. He has been continually receiving and seldom giving until, with some exceptions, the farmers of the county are hard put to it to make their lands produce just a bare living. Until the people of this county treat the gifts bestowed by Nature with the same love and respect they show the gifts received from friends and loved ones, the county will never become favorably known.

A Wise Move

THE TOWN BOARD deserves the thanks of the community for agreeing to sell the power plant. The price agreed upon is \$341,000 which was \$18,000 more than the next highest bid. Not only did the board act wisely in selling the plant, but it used good judgment in selling to Mr. Mead. Mr. Mead's organization does not make it a custom of buying and selling power plants at a profit. The Mead interests, as we understand the mat-

ter, have bought the Franklin power plant with the end in view of operating the plant and building up the community. His organization specializes in small properties and owns plants throughout the eastern part of the United States. Mr. Mead already has plans underway that will mean much to the town. News of these plans as they develop will be carried in the columns of The Press.

Before Mr. Mead would submit a proposition to the town he furnished references to the town board. Inquiries from those whose names were submitted by Mr. Mead indicate that he is a man of sterling character and that his organization is financially able to carry on with any proposition it undertakes. As a result of the sale of the plant it now appears that Franklin is on the eve of a period of great prosperity. Nothing spectacular, perhaps, but a steady and constant growth that will result in a few years in a larger town and lowered taxes.

Of course the sale of the plant will have to be submitted to the voters of the town for approval, but the sentiment in favor of the sale appears to be almost unanimous.

Vote to Sell

NOW and then one finds a citizen who is in doubt about the wisdom of selling the power plant. It is well to look at this matter from all angles and after having done so we do not believe that there will be a dozen votes cast against the proposition. For the past several months The Press has been giving reasons why the plant should be sold, but it is perhaps, just as well to rehash this matter. In the first place municipally owned public utilities is wrong in principle. No city government is going to concern itself with the sale of power. No comprehensive plans can be carried to a successful conclusion due to the fact that the administrations change every two years. The plant at Franklin has been in operation for more than three years and with the exception of the mica mines there are no industrial plants to use the surplus power and there never will be so long as the plant is owned by the town. Counting depreciation on the plant the town has been losing around \$20,000 per year for the past three and a half years. This, within itself, is sufficient reason for selling the plant. Under private ownership industrial concerns will locate in Franklin to utilize the surplus power. Power lines will probably be built into the

rural communities. Pay rolls will help business conditions. New property including the power plant will be placed on the tax books of the county. Taxes can be lowered in both town and county.

If there be those who want to carry the bond burden for the next 32 years, who want to continue to pay high taxes, who do not wish to see the town grow, who want no outside capital to come in and develop the community, who want to continue along in the same old ruts for the next generation—if there be such, they will of course vote against selling the plant.

Others' Comments

A TERRITORY'S NATURAL DEVELOPMENT

WHAT are the natural industries of a section? What are its natural crops? The answer to these two questions is the key to the logical development, both industrial and agricultural, of that territory.

The word "natural," here used in its large, liberal sense, can be translated "profitable" without doing injury to its true significance.

There are certain industries which, through native supply of raw material, available labor of the proper type, transportation both by rail and water, and reasonable proximity to large markets, are the logical basic manufacturing industries of a section.

Agricultural crops are a matter of selection and of experiment, always the essential element of a market being kept in mind. Thus, cotton for many reasons is an agricultural staple for the Southern states. But it is only one of many crops which can be grown easily and profitably in this section of the country.

The survey is half the battle! When a town ascertains what it can profitably manufacture, and a territory learns what it can profitably grow, then the lines of battle have been definitely pitched and local capital and farmers can have the comforting thought that they are not proceeding blindly, but according to a chart which presages success rather than failure.

There is such a difference in a community's just "going after factories," than in going after that more restricted line of industries which, in that community, will have their birth in an atmosphere of logical success.

Too, mere "diversification" of crops is not enough. Unless the right crops are grown it is simply more wasted energy.

Communities and sections are going about it more intelligently. The tendency more and more is to get down to an absolutely common sense basis. And on such a schedule the industrial development of Southern towns and cities will proceed steadily, surely, and on a bedrock basis, and agricultural development will have the same firm foundation.—Industrial Index.