

## The Franklin Press

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

S. A. HARRIS.....Editor

### 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.  
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?

In a letter published on this page Prof. T. G. Harbison makes some timely suggestions. It now remains to be seen whether party loyalty or county honor will win the battle.

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The Independent voters of Macon can put crooked politics out of business in this county. But the votes of the living will have to be over whelming to offset the votes of the dead.

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cases of scarlet fever in town and little or no attention is being paid to quarantine regulations. It would appear that the responsible officials should take immediate steps to quarantine families where this disease is present and thus prevent an epidemic.

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The Sixth Grade of the grammar school of Franklin is starting a column of news in this issue. The editors of this column type their news matter and hand it in in good shape. The Press congratulates these boys on their first effort. If there are other classes that wish to publish their class news The Press will be glad to accommodate.

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The Press is glad to learn that the business firms of Franklin have been able to get together in a co-operative sale. The fact of the matter is that the merchants of this town should organize a merchants association and co-operate in all ways. In this way they could be of much benefit to each other and at the same time lower the prices of goods to the consumers.

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Read what our old friend, J. K. Bryson, has to say about crooked politics. His letter appears elsewhere on this page. When honorable men like Mr. Bryson speak out for clean politics, much good can be accomplished. Mr. Bryson is honest to the core and has the interest of the county at heart. We trust that The Press will not be criticised for speaking well of this good man. It will be noted that we are criticised in this issue for speaking well of another good man. Will public sentiment back such critics or will it join hands with this paper in a mighty effort to rid the county of dirty politics? In this connection it should be remembered that silence is indicative of indifference.

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On this page is a letter from John W. Edwards who seems to resent the fact that last week we referred to Bob Shook as an honorable man. Does Johnny know Mr. Shook well enough to disagree with us? If so, Johnny might tell the public what is wrong with Bob. Johnny says that our little editorial paragraph referring to Mr. Shook "did not sound so nice." Since when, may we ask, has it become a crime to praise a citizen of Macon county? And why does Johnny draw the conclusion that The Press stated that if Mr. Ingram is elected it will be "thru a wholesale and corrupt stealing?" The Press never said so. Consequently it would be interesting to know how that idea got into Johnny's head. Let us quote that paragraph that seems to be irking Johnny: "There is not a man in the county who can bring a word of reproach against Bob Shook, a candidate for sheriff. If Bob is elected the public may rest assured that his election was brought about by fair and honorable means." Now, Johnny, just what is there about that paragraph that does "not sound so nice?" Does it depend upon

which political ear a man is using as to whether or not something "sounds nice?" In that paragraph we intimated nothing, but merely stated a fact, and that fact seems to be making Johnny squirm.

### The Water Question

THE TANKS are now empty. We do not mean to say ABOUT empty, but EMPTY. Consequently the town is now at the mercy of any fire that may occur. As soon as the water now in the pipes is used most of our citizens will have to tote water from neighboring springs. Now just what is Franklin going to do about this matter? Some want to bore another well, but the two we have are not furnishing enough water at present for a beetle to bathe in. The time seems to have arrived when the town must vote bonds for a modern water system. We must either do that or pay fifty times the cost of such a system when a fire hits the town. It's simply up to the voters.

### The Soil Survey

MR. R. E. DEVEREUX of the department of soil survey, Bureau of Chemistry, Washington, D. C., arrived here Sunday to make a soil survey of Macon county. For the past several months inquiries from prospective citizens from other states have been received at the office of the county agent asking for information of the soils of this county. In the absence of a soil survey Mr. Harris has been unable to answer these questions in a satisfactory manner. After the completion of this survey sometime next summer this information will be available for those who wish to locate in Macon county. A soil survey for this county has been one of the most pressing needs and the people of Macon can thank their county agent for his activities toward this end. This survey will cost the tax payers nothing. Consequently we presume that there can be no objections. The survey of the soils of this county is only another evidence of the good work being done for the public by the county's efficient agent.

### Invisible or Open Government?

NOW THAT Mr. J. A. Parrish, candidate for county commissioner, has answered the questionnaire propounded by The Press, we wonder if he is the only candidate for this

office who has answered the questionnaire. It is manifestly impossible for the people to cast their votes in an intelligent manner without knowing how the candidates stand on matters affecting the county. It is our opinion that the man with courage enough to tell the people his views on county matters is the man entitled to the confidence of the public. Of course there will be some candidates who will continue to run on a blind ticket hoping by concealing their stand on public questions that the public will vote for them. Is this attitude on the part of the candidates open and above board? Are those who do not intend to answer figuring on some form of invisible government after election?

The questions asked by this paper are vital to Macon county. They are not hard to answer. Will the candidates let the people remain in the dark or will they come out like men and make a clean breast of their respective positions?

### Possibilities in Sheep

MACON COUNTY has 328,320 acres, 105,867 of which are included in the Nantahala National Forest. This leaves 222,453 acres that are privately owned. Eighty per cent of this acreage, or 177,962 acres, is unfit for cultivation due to the rough nature of the topography. Consequently in the confines of Macon county we have only 44,591 acres available for cultivation. Under the farming methods now practiced by most of the farmers of the county it is manifestly impossible to support the population of Macon from the fruits of this small acreage. Consequently the 177,962 acres now in woodland, pasturage and unproductive lands, must be utilized to advantage. It is estimated that 60 per cent of this acreage is in woodland much of which it would be inadvisable to clear for pasturage. Hence we find 71,086 acres available for pasturage. Each of these acres will support one sheep. Considering the sale of wool and lambs each sheep will yield an income of \$10.00 per year, or \$710,869. This line of thought is suggested for those who do not wish to enter the dairy business. However, for those who desire to go into the dairy industry the acreage mentioned is sufficient to support 35,000 dairy cattle. With a net profit of only \$50 per year from each cow the income from this source would amount to \$1,750,000 annually for the farmers of this county. We have been unable to arrive at any figures for those who prefer to raise beef cattle. However, the county agent is always ready with expert advice for those who are partial to beef cattle.

All of the foregoing is by way of introduction to the important fact that the farmers of this county are doomed to failure and defeat unless they utilize to the fullest possible extent the vast numbers of acres that are now lying idle. These acres are now yielding nothing and are a liability, since the taxes on these lands must be paid.

## Letters

### BRYSON AGREES WITH PRESS

Major Harris:  
With much satisfaction I have read your editorials regarding honest elections. Let the old soiled records be sandpapered and henceforth let us stand upon the basis of honest political dealing. If a man can not be elected to office without fraud, let him remain at home. Speak again; The Press is on a high plain, and the integrity of the county will not falter, but support your sentiments. Certainly, you are right. If I were a candidate, I would thank no man to cast a fraudulent vote for me. Let all political rascals be severely scourged and old Macon's good name will be redeemed.

Give us Agent Harris again.

All hail to The Press!

J. K. BRYSON.

### JOHNNY HAS HIS SAY

Oct. 8, 1928.

The Franklin Press,  
Franklin, N. C.  
Gentlemen:

I noticed in the issue of October 4th of The Press that a Democrat had a right to have published his views in The Press. I as one Democrat, thank The Press authorities. For the last few weeks I have been thinking that the Yellow Jacket had changed its name.

In a letter published in the same issue of The Press a certain gentleman of Franklin asks this question, "Just why have corrupt practices been permitted to prevail in Macon county?" Knowing the gentleman as I do, I don't think he ought to put himself up as a man that knows anything about fair play. For weeks this man has circulated and caused to be circulated some of the most vile and corrupt literature that was ever published. He has tried to condemn a great man because he worshipped God according to the beliefs of the Catholic Church. I don't believe he can remember when the bogus K. of C. oaths were sold to newly taken in members of the J. O. U. A. M. He couldn't begin to count the copies of the "Friendship Forum" that found a circulating route by his aid.

Now let fair play be fair play and if the gentleman wants to stop corrupt practices first let him make a start. "A man can't serve two masters. A preacher

live up to his

Another item or short editorial that did not sound so nice was the one that placed Mr. Bob Shook on the Angelic List. If Charlie Ingram gets, there according to The Press, it will be thru a wholesale and corrupt stealing into office. Ingram has made a real sheriff, one that any citizen of the county can be proud of. When it comes to the place that an officer is condemned for doing his duty according to law we don't need a sheriff.

Now I am not upholding corrupt politics, but if the readers of "The Press" are really interested in cleaning the state let one and all remember some of the big "bugs." To mention only a few; Daugherty, Vare, Fall, Hays, Denby, Forbes and others. If local corruptness is ahead of what has been taking place in Washington, D. C., lately, we ought to have President Coolidge send the marines here for the November election. Nicaragua is a paradise compared to Macon county.

Truly yours,

JOHN W. EDWARDS.

Highlands, N. C., October 7, 1928.

Editor of Franklin Press:

Mr. Jack Stribling's timely letter in the latest issue of The Press deserves notice by all citizens interested in the common welfare of our county. He concludes his letter by saying: "This letter is merely by way of appeal to other citizens of the county who believe in fair dealing to come forward with suggestions as to the best way to assure a majority rule in the county and to create an atmosphere of clean politics in the best county of the best state in the Union."

The one thing that has surprised me most in this campaign has been the attempted discouragement of independent voting. As a youth I was taught that independence in politics is the safeguard of our liberties and the only cure for the corruption in politics. I shall, therefore, offer a few suggestions along this line. It was my good fortune to attend one of the old time one-teacher schools in a little red school house up to my sixteenth year. It was there that I got the ideas that I wish to convey in this letter. Such schools as the one alluded to no longer exist and the morals and manners of the present age suffer in consequence. I am well aware that many will not agree with me, but I stand ready to defend this statement if need be.

I quote verbatim what I was taught about political parties: "As temperaments differ, men are either Whigs or Democrats, Democrats or Republicans, according as their characters lead them to be conservative, dreading change even when it is for the better, or progressive, welcoming change even if it is for the worse. There is, however, in every free state a third party, little heard of, without organization, which does not seek office, holds no meetings, and owns no banners. It holds the balance of power, and it silently decides the elections and on the whole in

the right way. This party is composed of citizens who think for themselves, who look on at the strife little moved by partisan appeals, and on election day deposit their votes for the man or the policy which on the whole appears to them likely to best further the good of the state. This party is the terror of professional politicians, and often their confusion. The larger it is in any community, the better will public affairs be managed, for it is this party which punishes inefficiency, corruption or maladministration of any kind, defeats the caucuses and scratches tickets when corrupt men are nominated. It is to this party I wish you to belong, whether you are a Democratic or a Republican." Such was the teaching I received in a little red school house set upon a red hill at an impressionable age by a teacher who had faith in God and his country. Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

We can not convert Tammany Hall, the Philadelphia Ring or the Chicago Gang or the thousands of small rings and gangs, but we can keep them out of power by training the rising generation to be Independent Democrats and Independent Republicans.

Visiting at the home of Richard Lincoln not far from my father's farm, the wise and witty old second cousin of Abraham Lincoln, he turned to me and said, "Tom, I am going to ask you a question and I want you to answer it without thinking, right on the spur of the moment. Are the Republicans entirely right and the Democrats entirely wrong or are they both partly right and partly wrong?" My instant reply was both partly right and partly wrong. I shall never forget his broad smile followed by a hearty laugh and then he soberly and earnestly replied: "You have in you the making of an Independent and such as you are greatly needed to redeem this state from corrupt bosses and unscrupulous politicians." Dick Lincoln, as we familiarly called him, was a Republican, but an Independent Republican. A few years after this little episode the bosses named a candidate for governor without consulting the people and the Independents defeated him. Then the bosses consulted the people and nominated a man who was elected. Thinking that the people had forgotten or that they were apathetic the bosses again put up a man for governor against the will of the people. Again

Republican. On two occasions I voted for a Democrat for Governor of Pennsylvania and both times the Democrat was elected by the Independent vote. The Democrats can not elect any state officer in Pennsylvania without the Independent vote just as they can not elect a President of the United States without Independent aid. Blaine was defeated by the Independent vote. Wilson was elected the second term by the Independent vote. Independents vote with a party as a general thing but they do not belong to a party. An Independent can not be independent and belong to something. I can vote as I please as long as I do not belong to anybody or anything.

It is not a pleasant thing to think about our descendants digging up old papers published in our time and learning that in 1928 we were not cultured and civilized enough to use the absentee ballot. It seems as though we ought to be able to work out some plan whereby students in college, business men away from home, and persons not able to attend the election in person can cast their ballots, but if the absentee ballot is a cause of corruption I agree that this temptation should be removed from the weak. "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil," should be our daily prayer.

We carry politics too far in the United States. County affairs, for instance, have nothing in common with party politics and county officials should be selected for their character and ability without any reference to their party affiliation in national affairs. The same holds true to a great extent in state affairs. No matter what state I happened to live in I should vote with the party that offers the most liberal local self government. The government at Washington should not meddle in purely state affairs in North Carolina. The government at Raleigh should not meddle in purely Macon county affairs. The county government at Franklin should not meddle in purely Highland township affairs. The Highlands township government should not meddle in the affairs that are purely of and for the town of Highlands, and none of these governments should meddle in my private affairs. In this I agree with Thomas Jefferson. He spent his declining years in the advocacy and promotion of this doctrine but he failed to accomplish much along this line. It seems strange that a party that has adopted Jefferson as its patron saint should be the one that seems to have the least trust in the people. In all of the states that have for many years been ruled by the Democratic party there is practically no township government. Township government when rightly managed is the best school of politics imaginable. This government is so near the people that dishonesty and maladministration can not flourish. It trains young men for county government.

T. G. HARBISON.