

HUGHES' ABILITY IS INDISPUTABLE

All Sides Concede To Integrity of New Chief Justice

LIVE ISSUE, HOWEVER

Protests Against Tendency of Supreme Court To Exceed Authority

(By Fred Holmes, Washington Correspondent of Franklin Press)

Washington, Feb. 19.—It is said that a least one generation must elapse before the works and apparent lapses of any public man can be reviewed with equanimity and recounted without prejudice or bias.

Had the fight against the confirmation of Charles Evans Hughes as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court involved any question of the ability or the integrity of Mr. Hughes, any attempt to analyze the situation at this time would be premature. But his ability and integrity are conceded on all sides to be indisputable. The fight was against a theory or a principle of economic jurisprudence not in accord with the views of some of our liberally minded senators but of which Mr. Hughes was known to approve.

Further evidence has been forthcoming that the senate has got hold of a really live issue which may grow into such consuming interest as to wash off the party labels now borne by many statesmen and bring about a new political alignment. Protests against the asserted tendency of the Supreme Court to exceed its authority by assuming to regulate economic conditions have been renewed and stated with even greater vigor.

Dill Serves Notice

Senator Dill, of Washington, served notice by name on justices of the Supreme Court that it depended upon them whether the court was to become a political body, and he gave the serious warning that the people of the country would not tolerate being oppressed by its decisions. If they found that they were being exploited in water and electric rates, in car fares and telephone charges as a result of Supreme Court actions, and that they could get no relief either through City Councils, State Legislatures or Congress for the same reason, the people, he said, would find a means of changing the situation at the ballot box.

There was scant sympathy here with those who fought against the confirmation of Mr. Hughes, but the fight was productive of two outstanding considerations. In the first place, there is no doubt about the fact that a great many who would have deeply regretted his rejection agree that the fight against him was the most interesting and illuminating as well as one of the most wholesome and worth-while things that has happened in a long time. It is said that Mr. Hughes will be a better Chief Justice for the experience. In spite of his unquestioned ability and integrity, it is the consensus of opinion on all sides that it is a good thing for the country that the attack was made.

One of the things that has enabled those who have had personal contact with Mr. Hughes to easily restrain their enthusiasm about him is the conscious air of superiority with which he is constantly enveloped, to

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FRANKLIN LOSES TO DEMOREST ON TUESDAY, FEB. 18

Franklin high school basketball teams were defeated in a double-header last Tuesday night against the teams of Demorest high school. The games were played in Demorest. The boys lost by the score of 21-32. The girls lost by a count of 18-21.

Gun Battle Follows Thief's Effort To Gain Entrance To Ingram's Office

The corridor of Macon county's ancient court house echoed to a fullsalade of pistol shots before day last Saturday morning when a marauder attempted to enter the office of Sheriff C. L. Ingram, and remove the sheriff's store of spirits of Indian corn. This is said to be the third time within six months that the sheriff's office has been entered. Ninety gallons of whiskey were stolen from the office last November.

Deputy Sheriff Arthur Ray was sleeping in the office last Friday night, where he is said to have been sleeping regularly in order to catch some such marauder. The intruder unlocked the door of the office with a skeleton key, then returned with a case knife and forced the night lock. As he started to enter the office Deputy Ray fired. The would-be thief ran toward the upper end of the court house, with the deputy firing after him.

As soon as they came into the open, the fleeing man opened fire on Ray. After both guns were emptied, without anyone being hit, Deputy Ray gave further chase and finally cornered his man back of the Baptist church. There a scuffle ensued. The result was that Deputy Ray was overpowered and his gun taken away from him. The might-have-been prisoner then made good his escape.

But he left his motor car. In the car were found two five gallon containers, several pieces of hose pipe, several empty jars and bottles, and one fruit jar of liquor. Officers are working on this clue.

Deputy Ray also claims to have recognized the man, and officers are on the lookout for him. Sheriff C. L. Ingram was aroused, and shortly afterward Fred Young was arrested and charged with being associated with the court house marauder. Young is held in the county jail, after failure to make a \$700 bond.

HUNDRED ENROLL IN C. OF C. BODY

Trade Organization's Charter Membership Is Complete

Franklin's recently organized chamber of commerce reached its goal of 100 charter members last week, announces the secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Alvah Pearce.

"We are giving to The Press this week," states John E. Rice, the president, "the full list of 108 members, making the charter membership complete. We find that a number of our best and most influential citizens, both men and women, have not as yet joined us. We appeal to you to join the organization at once. Let's have a 100 per cent community, and with a larger membership and everyone pulling together, we can prove to you that Franklin is the best place on earth to live in. Come on now and give us your support. One dollar will carry you up to April 1."

Charter Members

The list of charter members to date:

J. W. Addington, Logan Allen, Earl Angel, Dr. Furman Angel, T. W. Angel, Sr., Wade Arvey, Judge John Awtrey, Jos. Ashear, M. D. Billings, Dr. John Brabson, Glen Brendle, C. S. Brown, O. C. Bryant, John B.

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SIXTY MEXICAN QUAIL BROUGHT INTO MACON CO.

Sixty Mexican quail were brought from Black Mountain to the Wayah Game refuge last Monday by C. N. Mease, assistant state game warden. These quail are exclusively for the refuge, though other quail are to be distributed by Warden Jess Slagle to applicants from Macon county.

The Mexican quail were sent to North Carolina from Texas.

MACON JURORS TO GO TO CLAY

Thirty Citizens Summoned To Appear In Hayesville, April 29

Thirty Macon citizens have been summoned to appear in Clay county on April 29, to act as jurors in the case of the State versus Marsh Scroggs and Bon Berrong, charged with house breaking and larceny. Two trials have previously been held on this case, but it is stated that an unbiased jury cannot be obtained in Clay.

The following notice was received by Sheriff Ingram:

"As per order of the Board of County Commissioners you are hereby directed and instructed to summon each and every one of the following—

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COMMISSIONER'S REINSTATE FIRE WARDEN SYSTEM IN COUNTY; \$600 IS APPROPRIATED

Fred Slagle To Act As Fire Warden And Game Warden

After two weeks of disastrous forest fires in Macon county, the board of commissioners has passed an order to reinstate a fire warden in the county in co-operation with the North Carolina department of conservation and development. The cost to the county will be \$600 annually, and the state will appropriate an equal sum to be added to this amount. County Game Warden Fred Slagle will become the county's fire warden, and deputy wardens will be placed throughout the county.

W. K. Beichler, district forester, in a letter to The Franklin Press relative to the move, writes:

Letter

"Dear Mr. Harris: As you probably know by this time, the Macon County Commissioners entered into co-operation with the State Forest Service on Thursday on

the basis of a \$600 annual appropriation from each party.

"I wish to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of your efforts to bring this about through the medium of your paper. The Franklin Press has always been our outstanding example of County Newspapers co-operation in District One.

"The acceptance of a new county at this time represents something of a sacrifice on the part of the State organization. It means the expenditure of time and money toward the putting on of a brand new organization when that time and money is badly needed in other counties whose co-operation has been continual. We are, however, thoroughly interested in Macon county as well as in the others and are undertaking the step in spite of its obvious disadvantages to us.

Guarantee Effort

"The Forest Service, of course, can not guarantee that there will be no

REDUCTION IN TAX RATE FORESEEN FOR COUNTY

Bible Class Holds Delightful Social

The F. S. Johnston bible class met at the home of Mrs. M. L. Dowdle last Friday night for its monthly social. Mrs. Dowdle, Mrs. W. T. Moore, Miss Mary Allman, Mrs. Lon Campbell, Miss Rachel Davis, Mrs. Walt McConnell, Mrs. Claude Russell were hostesses.

This was a Washington's birthday program. Miss Elinor Sloan won first prize at the program for pinning a wig nearest the right spot on a likeness of George's head.

Mrs. John Davenport won second prize for composing the best Washington telegram.

Delicious refreshments were served,

REVISION LIKELY IN NEAR FUTURE

Macon Can Make Possible Reduction of 40 Per Cent

HAYWOOD CUT LIKELY

Power Developments Make Slash In Rates A Possibility

Radical revision of the tax rates in at least three Western North Carolina counties appears almost certain, as a result of the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and of power developments.

Macon county will be in a position to slash about 40 per cent off its tax rate at the end of two years.

A cut of nearly 20 per cent is probable in Haywood when the tax rate is next fixed in that county.

And Swain county, because of its loss of taxable property to the park, faces an increase of about 23 per cent in its rate. The increase in Swain, however, in all probability will not be permanent, with the possibility of that county ultimately becoming one of the richest in Western North Carolina.

All of these estimated changes are based on the presumption that other property values and the expenses of the three counties will remain approximately the same as at present.

Situation in Macon

In Macon county, the present taxable values are \$7,412,386. The tax rate is \$1.64.

But at Beecher, in Macon county, the Nantahala Power and Light company is constructing a power development at an estimated cost of approximately \$10,000,000—or more than the valuation of all other property in the county.

Of course it is not customary to list property for taxation at even approximately its value, but it probably would be conservative to fix the taxable value of the Beecher project, to be completed in about two years, at \$5,000,000.

40 Per Cent Cut Possible

This will increase the county's taxable values from about seven and a half to about twelve and a half million dollars, and make it possible to raise the same amount of revenue as at present with a 40 per cent lower rate. In other words, the rate can be cut from the present one of \$1.64 to about \$1.04. If the plant is assessed for more than \$5,000,000 the rate cut will be more; if for less, the rate will not be cut so sharply.

Haywood county's situation is somewhat different. In that county the Carolina Power and Light company is now completing a plant even larger than that at Beecher, but Haywood is a much richer county than Macon, and the taxable value added by the plant will be much smaller, in proportion to the county's present wealth, than is the case in Macon.

FIRE BURNS OVER 300 ACRES OF LAND OF NAT'L FOREST

A fire that burned over 300 acres in Habersham county, Georgia, on the Nantahala National forest lands was reported during the dry spell of last week, Friday and Saturday. The fire was strung over three miles in a heavy smoke that made fighting difficult.

Only a small acreage was lost on North Carolina lands of the forest.

Serious Problem

"Agriculture is not prosperous in the nation and is certainly a serious problem in this state. It is receiving the most careful thought of the press—

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State Also Appropriates \$600 To Aid Warden System

fires, any more than a Sheriff can guarantee that there will be no robberies. We do, however, guarantee to make every possible effort within our limitations to both prevent and suppress forest fires.

"County Warden Fred Slagle and myself will decide very shortly upon the personnel of our District Warden organization. When this is completed we should appreciate any publicity you may give to the ten or twelve names involved.

"I am enclosing a copy of our State Forest Laws and wish to make it clear to the people of Macon county that we will do all in our power to enforce these Laws which are of benefit to all citizens who use the products from that timberland in any form.

"Again let me say that we appreciate your co-operation."